

ADVENTURES
in WONDERLAND

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE

ADVENTURES

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in



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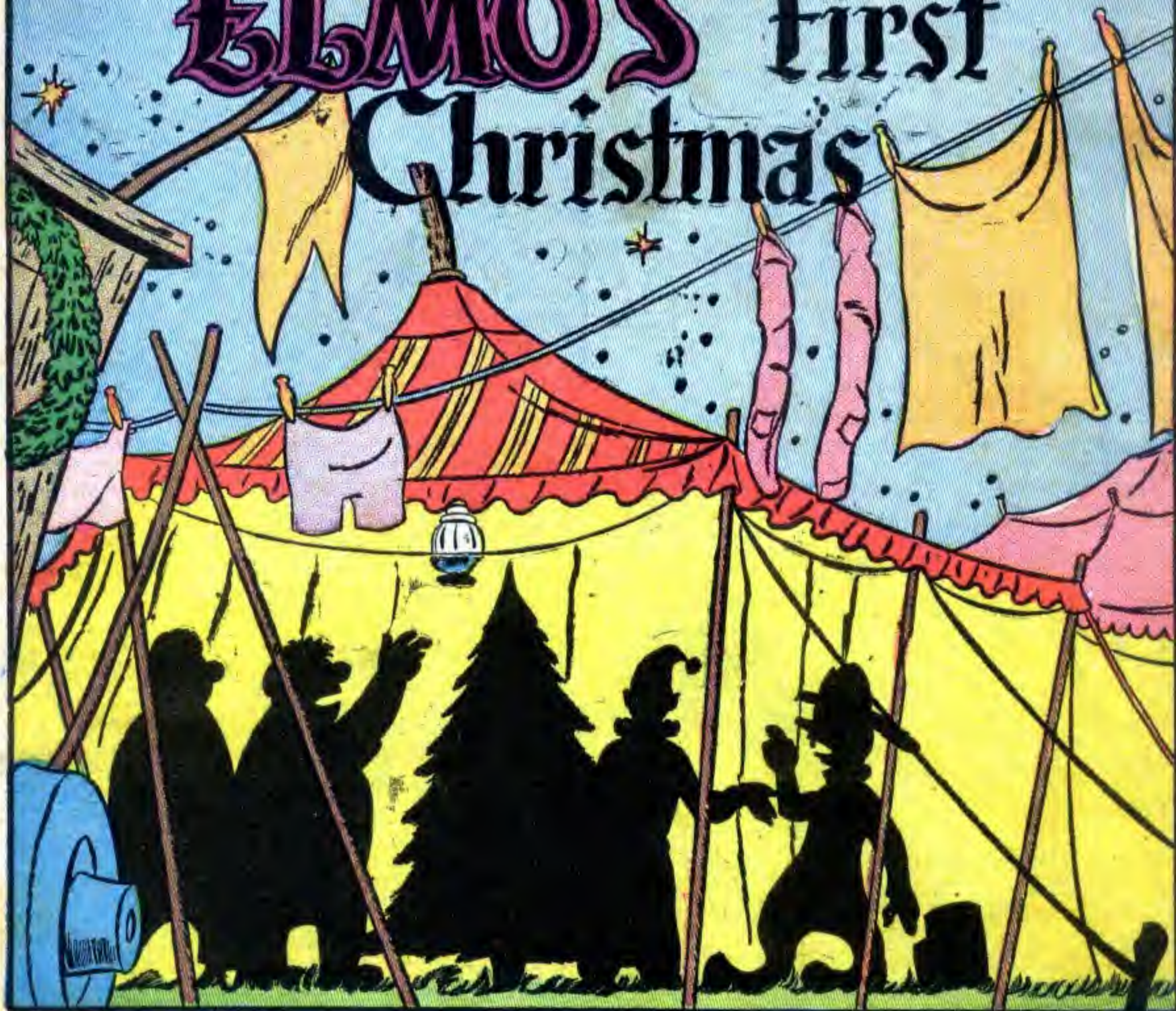
The Man who didn't believe in Christmas

The TROUBADOUR



IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE WINTER QUARTERS OF THE RINGLÖB BROS. CIRCUS! THAT IS, IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE FOR EVERYONE BUT ELMO, THE BABY ELEPHANT! ELMO IS EXACTLY ONE YEAR OLD TODAY AND HE'S NEVER HEARD OF CHRISTMAS OR EVEN SANTA CLAUS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT'S

ELMO'S First Christmas

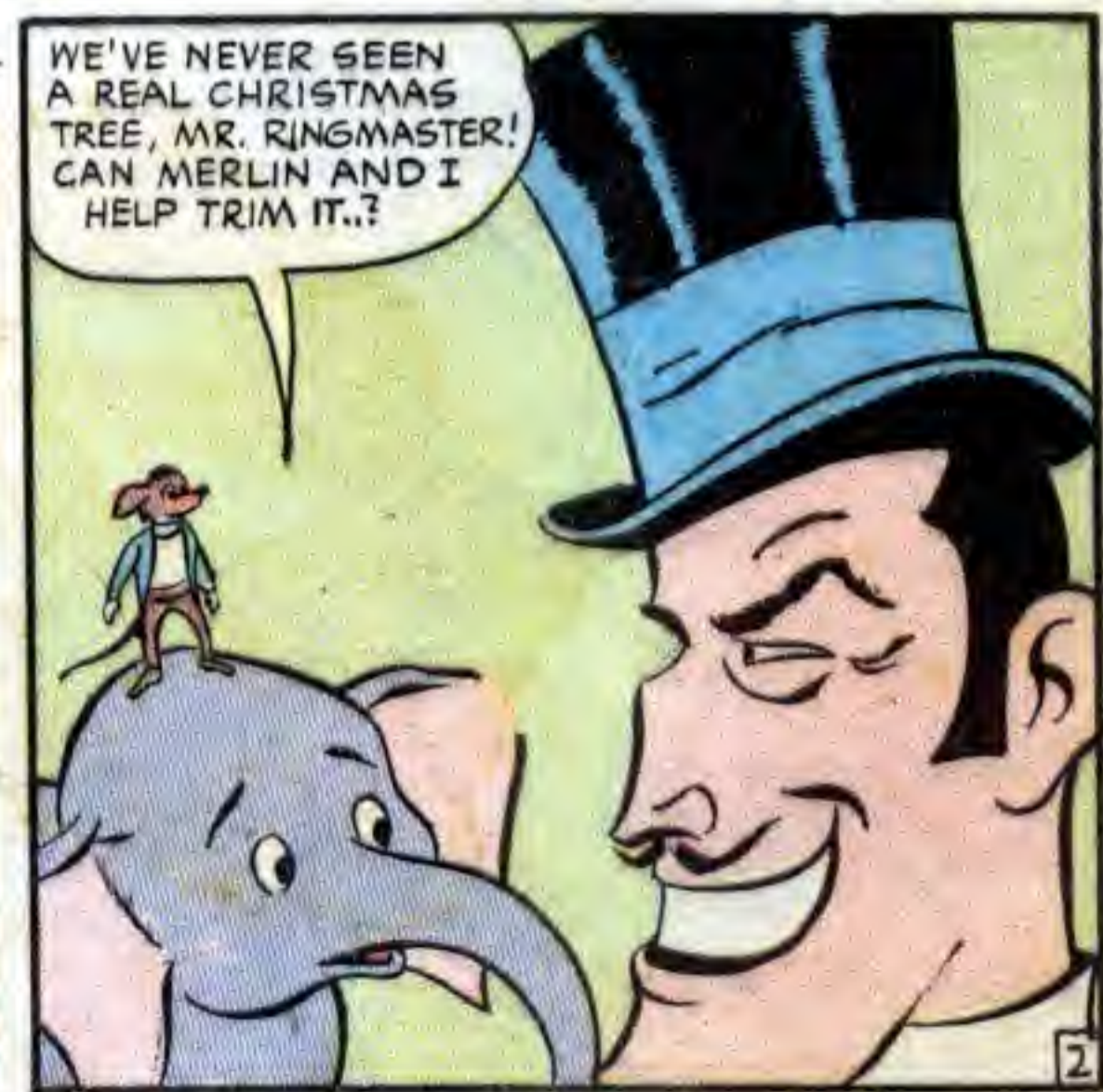
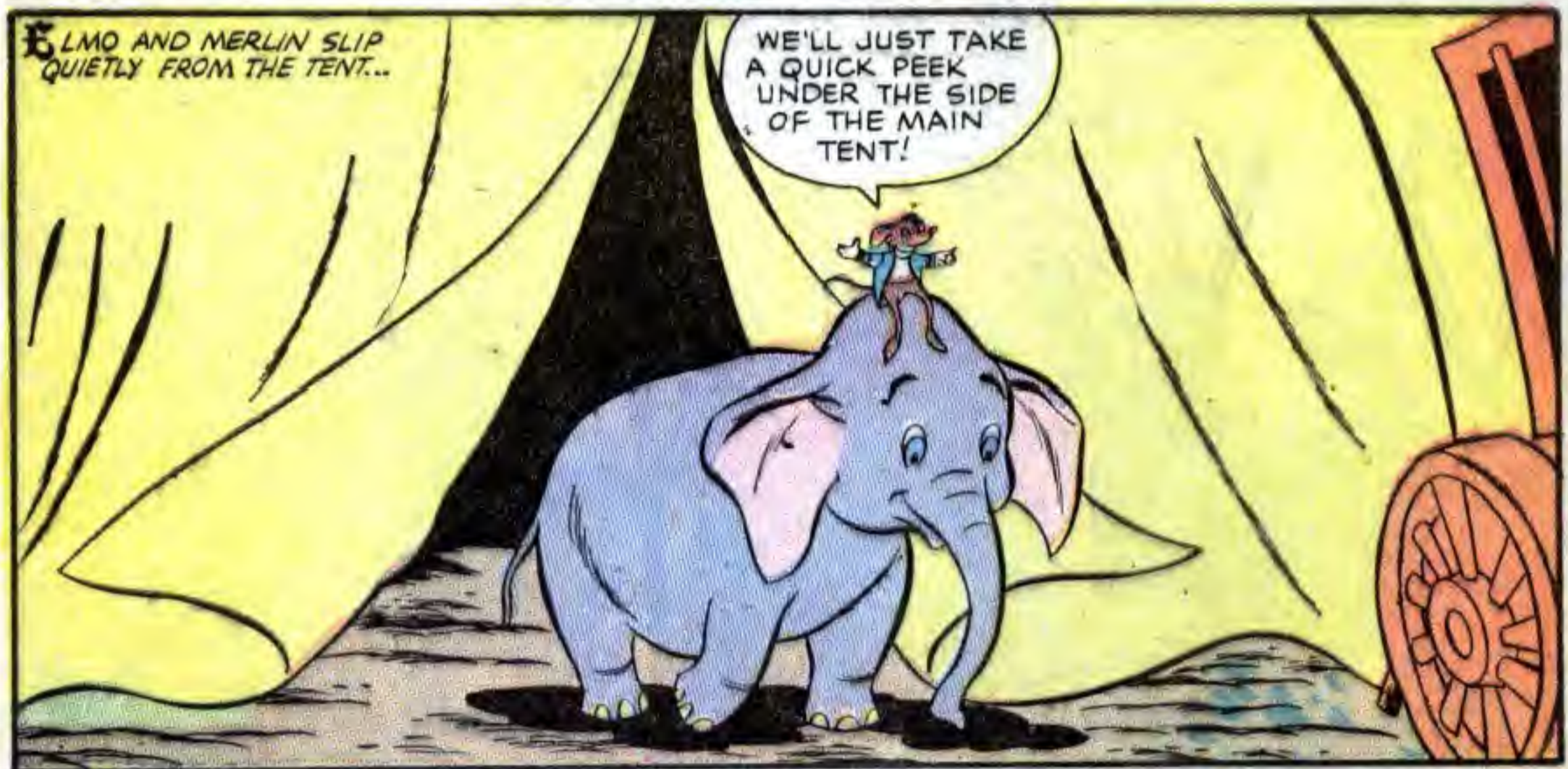
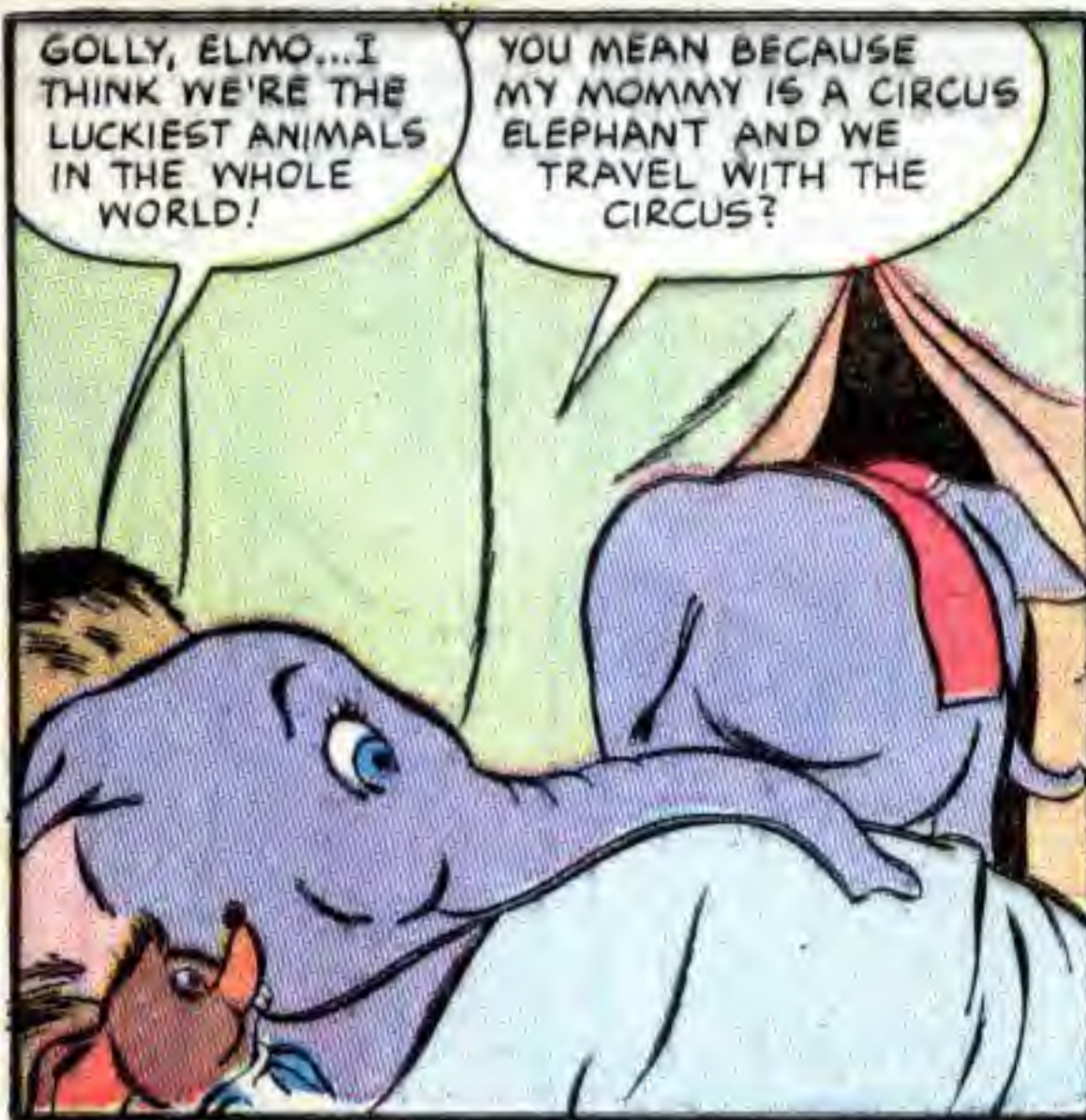


AT THE EDGE OF THE CIRCUS GROUNDS, IN A COZY LITTLE TENT, MRS. ELEPHANT TUCKS ELMO INTO HIS BED...

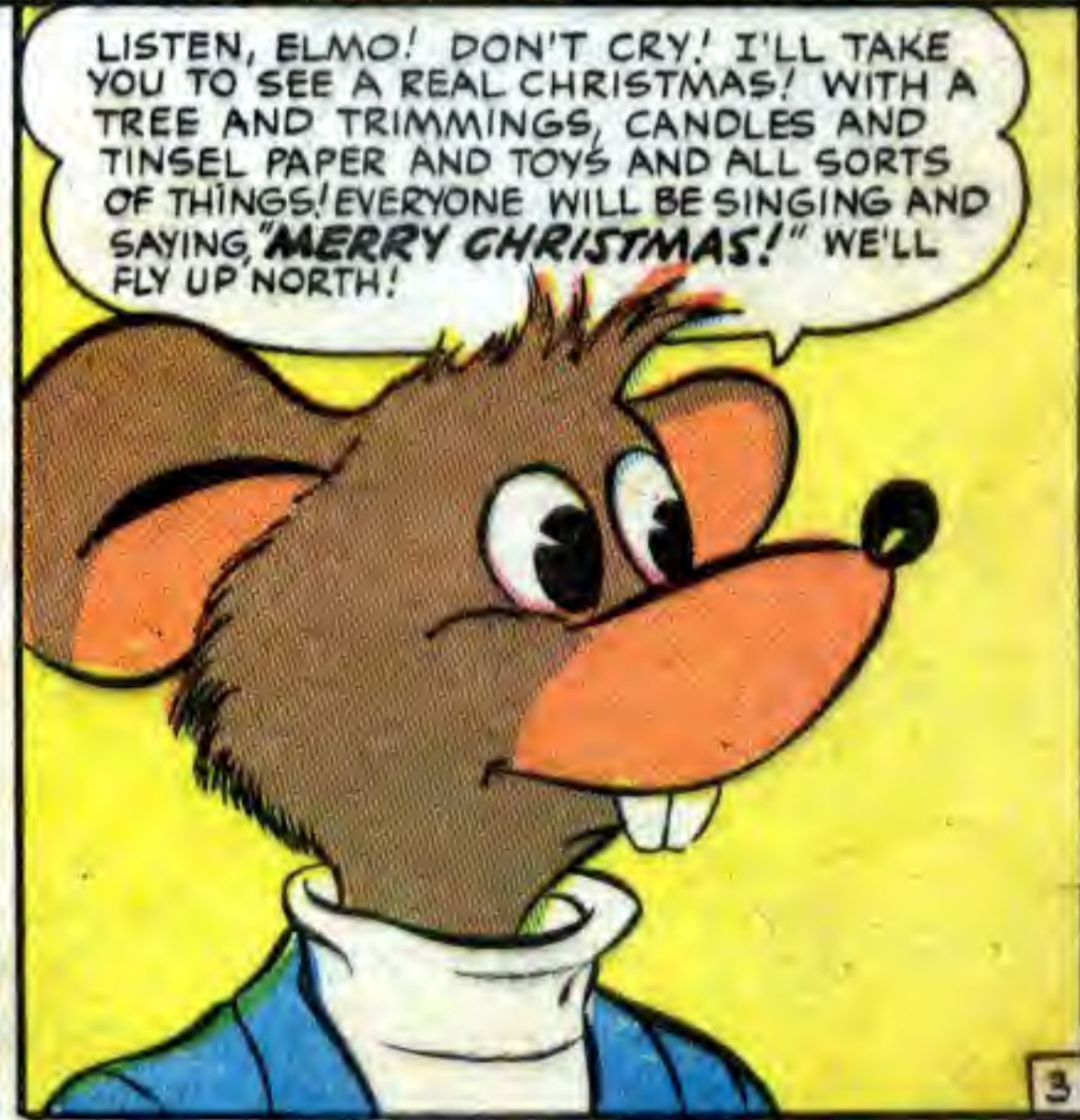
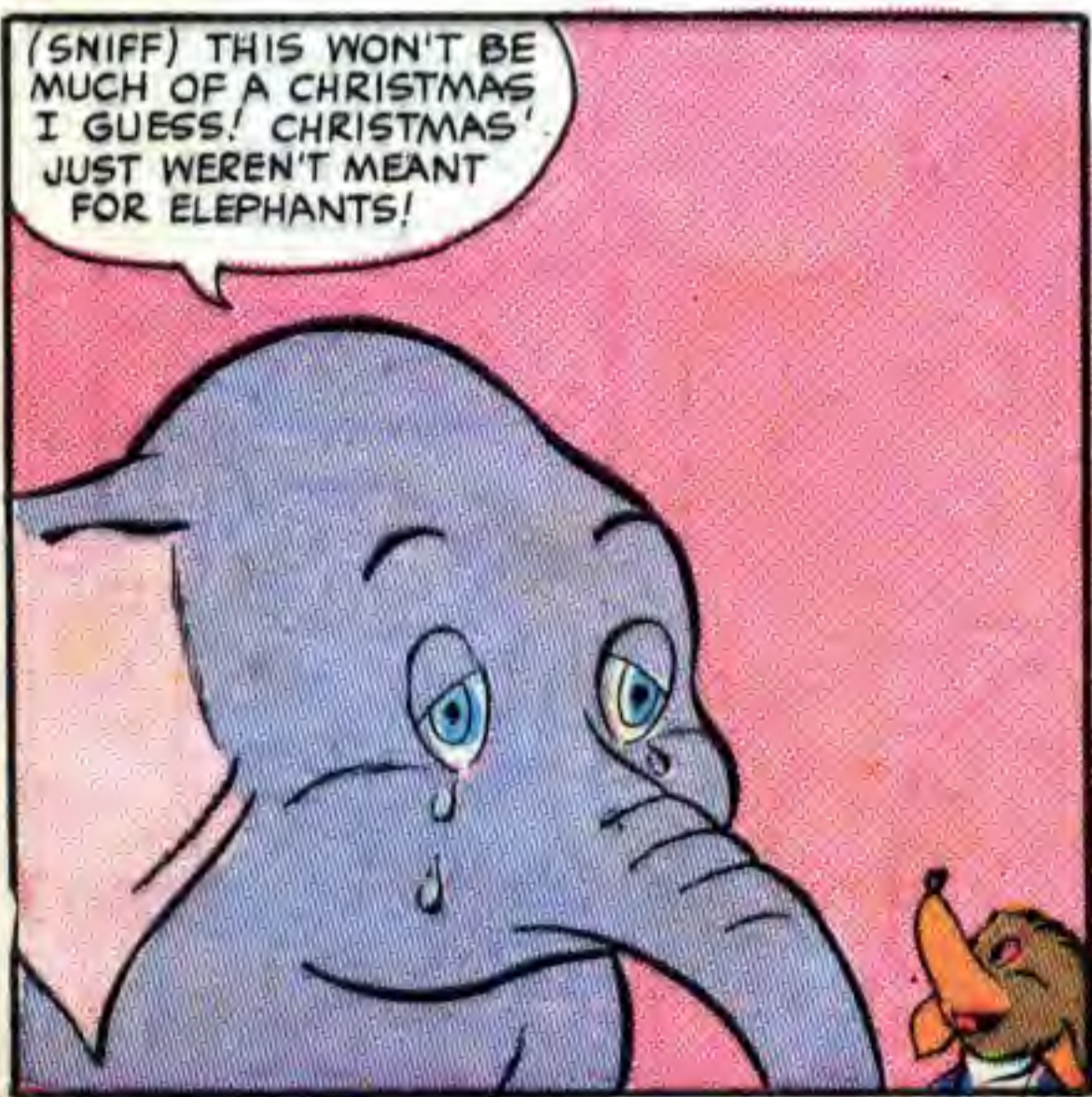
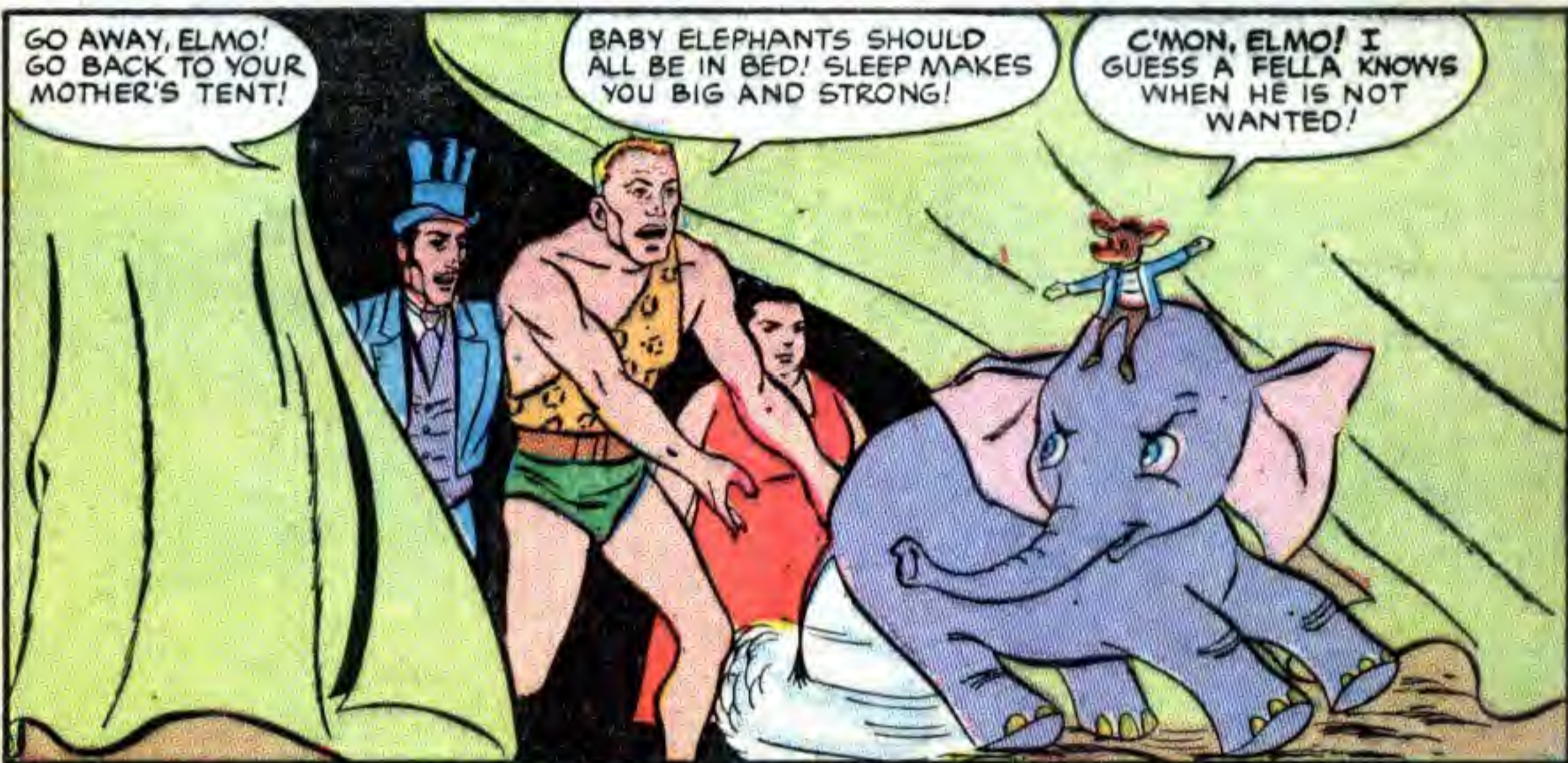
GOOD NIGHT, MOMMY AND MERLIN!

GOOD NIGHT, DEAR! SLEEP WELL!





TO POOR ELMO'S EMBARRASSMENT, THE CIRCUS FOLK SUDDENLY STOP WHAT THEY'RE DOING! EVERY EYE TURNS TO ELMO... THEN THERE'S A LOUD BURST OF LAUGHTER...



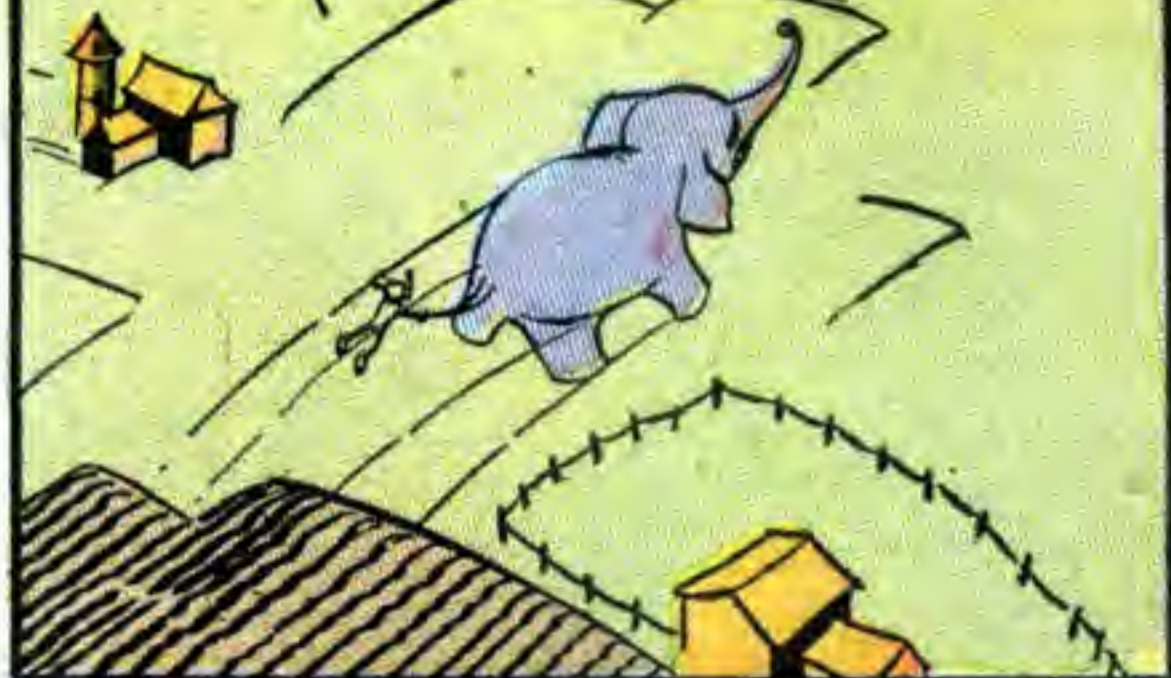
WITHOUT WASTING A MINUTE, MERLIN SPRINKLES HIMSELF AND ELMO WITH A MAGIC FLYING DUST, AND AWAY THEY GO! ELMO IS A HOMEBODY DEEP IN HIS HEART AND HAS NEVER LEFT HIS MOTHER AND THE CIRCUS BEFORE. BUT HE HAS SUCH A STRONG DESIRE TO SEE A REAL CHRISTMAS, HE'S NOT AFRAID...

IF WE KEEP TO CLOUD LANE THREE, WE'LL BE UP NORTH IN NO TIME!



THERE'S THE PLACE RIGHT DOWN BELOW, ELMO!

HANG ON...WE'LL MAKE A LANDING!



A BAKERY AND CANDY SHOP ATTRACTS THE WEARY, HUNGRY, TRAVELERS WITH ITS DISPLAY OF BREAD, CAKES AND GINGERBREAD MEN! JUST AS THEY OPEN THE SHOPDOOR, THE BAKER'S WIFE SEES THEM...

EEEEK! AN ELEPHANT AND A MOUSE... I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND...



GO AWAY! GO AWAY! SHOO... SHOO!

WE JUST WANTED SOME GINGERBREAD... WE WERE HUNGRY...



POOR ELMO, REJECTED AND CHASED AWAY AGAIN! BUT WAIT! WHAT DO WE SEE HERE...A LITTLE BOY, UNAFRAID?

SOB! WE NEVER SHOULD'VE COME HERE! EVERYONE'S SCARED OF US!

IT'S A BABY ELEPHANT! WHY ARE YOU CRYING?



IT'S JUST THAT WE'VE COME SUCH A LONG WAY... SNIFF... TO SEE A REAL CHRISTMAS WITH A TREE AND PRESENTS! BUT NOBODY LIKES US, AND WE'RE SO COLD AND HUNGRY...

I LIKE YOU BOTH! THERE'S ROOM IN OUR STABLE WITH FOOD AND WARM HAY!

INSIDE THE STABLE, ELMO AT ONCE FEELS MUCH BETTER...

WE HAVE A REAL CHRISTMAS EVERY YEAR AT MY HOUSE! I COULD TAKE YOU INSIDE... IF... ONLY YOU WEREN'T SO BIG...

IF THAT'S THE PROBLEM, I CAN MAKE MYSELF...



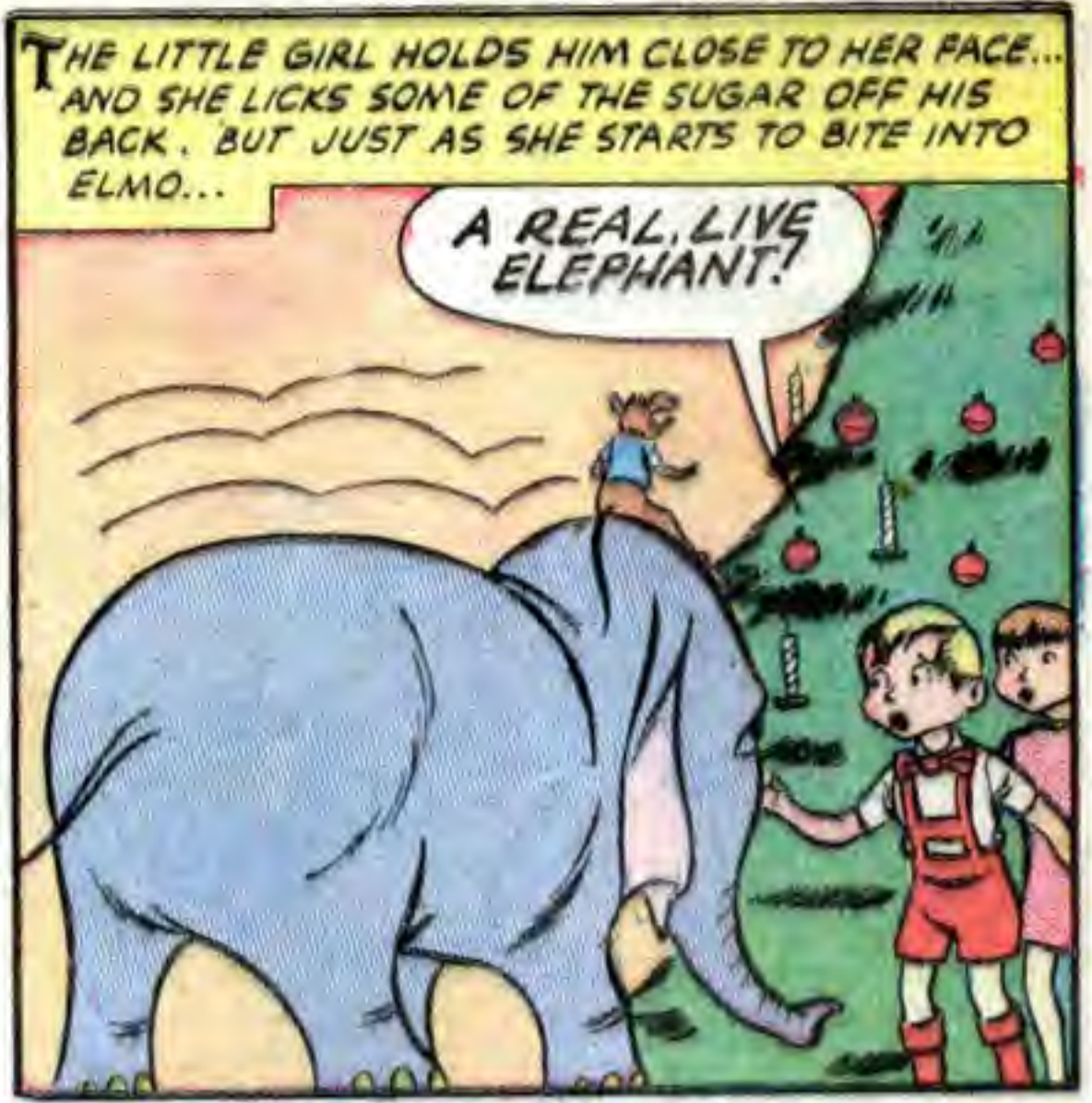
...MUCH SMALLER, LIKE THIS!

GEE WHIZ! HE CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A SUGAR COOKIE!

INSIDE THE HOUSE, HANGING ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE, ELMO FINDS IT MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN HE IMAGINED. THE FIREPLACE AND HOLLY WREATHS MAKE DELIGHTFUL SHADOWS ALL THROUGH THE ROOM.



A LITTLE ELEPHANT COOKIE...



The End

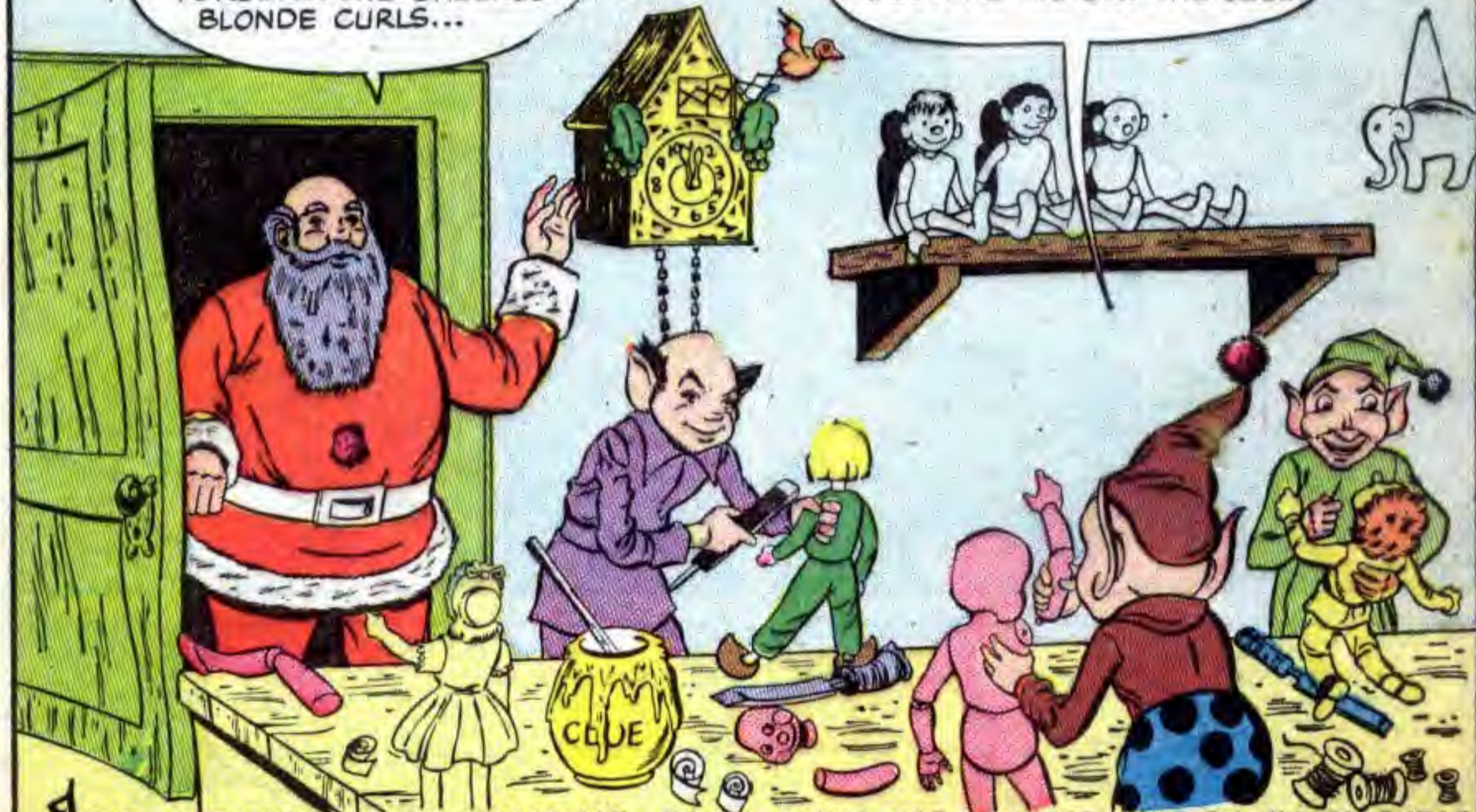
HO, HO, HO! WHAT A BUSY CHRISTMAS WE'LL HAVE THIS YEAR! LOOK AT ALL THESE LETTERS FROM CHILDREN! ORDERS FOR DRUMS, RATTLES, HORSES, WOOLLY DOGS, AND A DOLL OR SO!

FEAR NOT, SANTA! PRODUCTION IS IN FULL SWING! WE WILL HAVE WONDERFUL TOYS FOR THE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS OF LITTLE GIRLS AND BOYS!



HOW IS SUZIE SMITH'S WALKING, TALKING DOLL COMING ALONG? DON'T FORGET... SHE ORDERED BLONDE CURLS...

...AND A PARTY DRESS OF PERIWINKLE BLUE! SUZIE'S DOLL WILL BE READY AS SOON AS WE DRY THE GLUE!



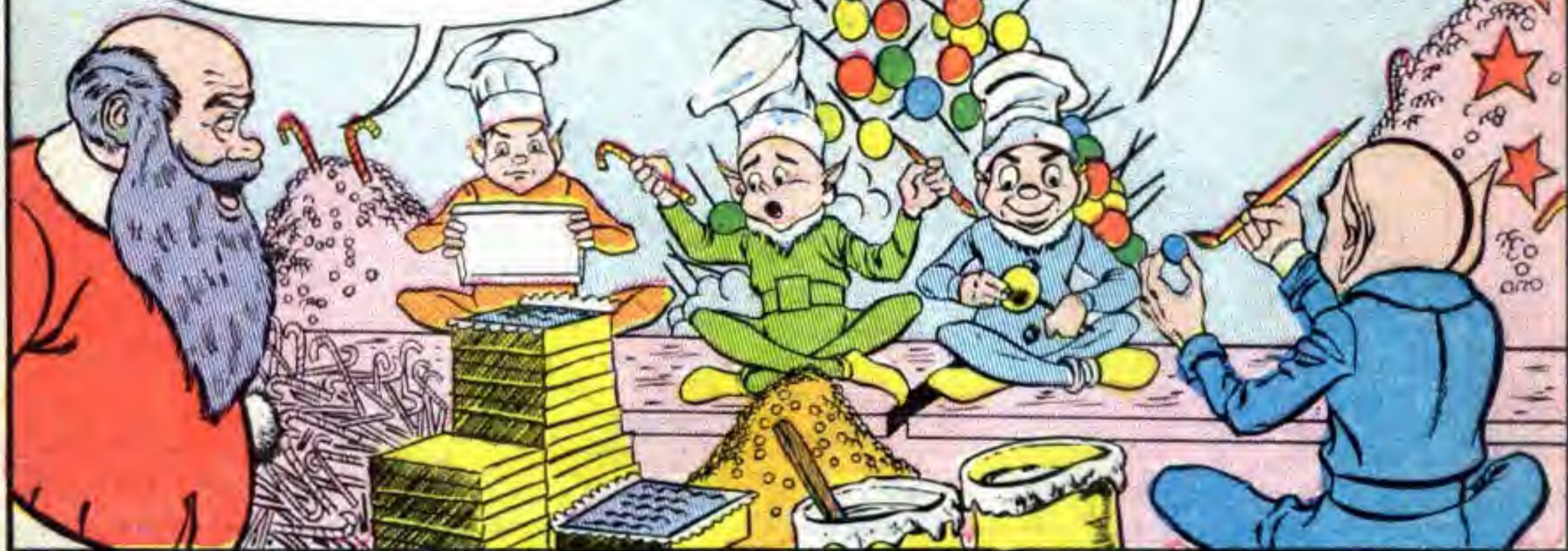
IT IS JUST ONE DAY TILL CHRISTMAS. SANTA CLAUS HAD COUNTED DAYS ON HIS CALENDAR, TILL HE CAME TO THE BIG RED 25, THAT MEANT 'CHRISTMAS.' NOW SANTA SEES BY THE CUCKOO CLOCK ON THE MANTEL THAT IT IS NEARLY CHRISTMAS EVE! HE'D BETTER SPEED UP HIS ASSEMBLY LINE IF HE'S GOING TO MAKE THE DEADLINE! BUT ALAS AND ALACK, SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO SLOW DOWN THE TOY PRODUCTION AND IT LOOKS LIKE...

SANTA'S IN A DILEMMA

SANTA INSPECTS THE CANDY DEPARTMENT. THERE ARE LICORICE STICKS, LEMON DROPS, PEPPERMINT CANES AND LOLLIPOPS TOO...

WELL, BLESS MY WHISKERS... THAT'S A DELECTABLE LOOKING PILE OF GOODIES!

THIS IS THE BEST BATCH EVER MADE BY THE HEAD COOK! AND SANTA... THEY TASTE AS GOOD AS THEY LOOK!



NEXT, SANTA VISITS THE TOY DEPARTMENT TO ADMIRE A WONDERFUL ASSORTMENT OF TRAINS, DOLLS, BLOCKS, WOOLLY ANIMALS, PUZZLES AND GAMES...

NOW TO THE PAINT DEPARTMENT FOR COLORS CHEERY AND GAY, THEN THESE TOYS WILL BE READY TO LOAD INTO YOUR SLEIGH!



IN THE FINISHING DEPARTMENT, SANTA IS ABOUT TO INSPECT THE HUGE VATS OF PAINT, WHEN...

SANTA! SANTA! WE'RE IN A TERRIBLE PLIGHT! THE KEEPER OF THE RAINBOW HAS SENT US ONLY... **PAINT OF WHITE!**



OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE! I CAN'T DISTRIBUTE UNPAINTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS! AND IT'S ONLY A FEW HOURS TILL CHRISTMAS EVE! ALL THE LITTLE CHILDREN WON'T GET THEIR TOYS!



THIS'LL BE THE FIRST CHRISTMAS YOU'VE MISSED, SANTA... MY, WHAT A DULL AND GLOOMY SEASON 'T WILL BE... TSK, TSK, TSK!



SANTA IS DISMAYED TO FIND PRODUCTION AT A STANDSTILL IN ALL THE DEPARTMENTS HE VISITS... ALL EXCEPT THE CANDY DEPARTMENT, THAT IS...

OH, DEAR!
OH, DEAR...

NOBODY WANTS UNPAINTED TOYS! WHAT SHALL I DO...

...I MUST THINK!
OH, I KNOW...I'LL CALL A BOARD MEETING!

A MEETING IS HASTILY CALLED TO ORDER IN SANTA'S OFFICE...

...SO THAT'S THE SITUATION, AND CHRISTMAS WITHOUT PRESENTS IS UNTHINKABLE! ANY IDEAS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD..?

...HOW ABOUT PASTING COLORED PAPER ON THE DOLLS AND GAMES AND BASEBALL MITTS...

...OR BOILING THE DYES OUT OF OUR CLOTHES...

...LET'S SEND THE PRESENTS OUT UNFINISHED AND CALL IT A "PAINT IT YOURSELF KIT!"

NO, NO, NO!
NONE OF THESE SOLUTIONS WILL DO!

WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA... ALL OF YOU BACK TO WORK! GREEN WINTERGREEN, BLACK LICORICE, RED PEPPERMINT CANES, AND YELLOW LEMON LOLLIPOPS CAN BE MELTED DOWN TO MAKE THE COLORS WE NEED!

GOLLYWOBBLES, S.C.! THAT'S A FINE IDEA! BUT WE MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH CANDY LEFT, I FEAR!

BUT, LUCKILY FOR SANTA AND HIS ELVES...THERE IS AN EXCESS OF CHRISTMAS CANDY!

LET'S HURRY! I HAVE THREE HOURS' WORTH OF TIN SOLDIER PAINTING TO DO...

...GOSH, SANTA, THE REST OF US ARE 'WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE, TOO!



THE FIRST THING IS, TO SORT OUT THE DIFFERENT COLORED CANDIES...

PEPPERMINT CANES OF RED...

...LICORICE STICKS OF BLACK...

...WHEN WE ARE THROUGH, NARY A COLOR WE'LL LACK!



NEXT, THE GOODIES ARE MELTED IN HUGE VATS...

VATS BOIL... CANDIES BUBBLE! GET SANTA OUT OF A MESS OF TROUBLE!

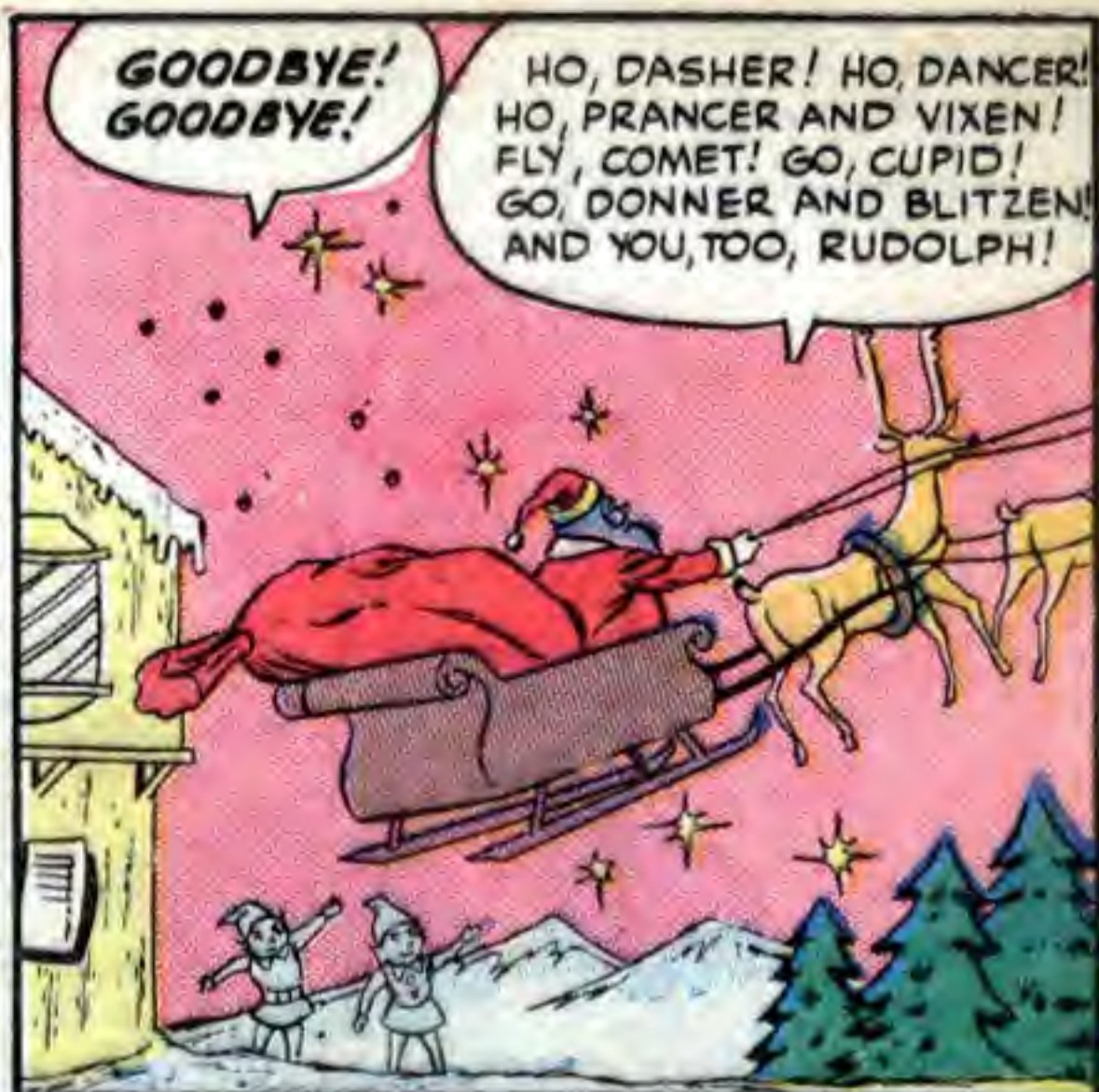


...AND RUSHED TO THE FINISHING DEPARTMENT, WHERE THE ELVES ARE BUSILY PAINTING AWAY...

WELL, ELVES, IS EVERYTHING ALMOST READY? WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!

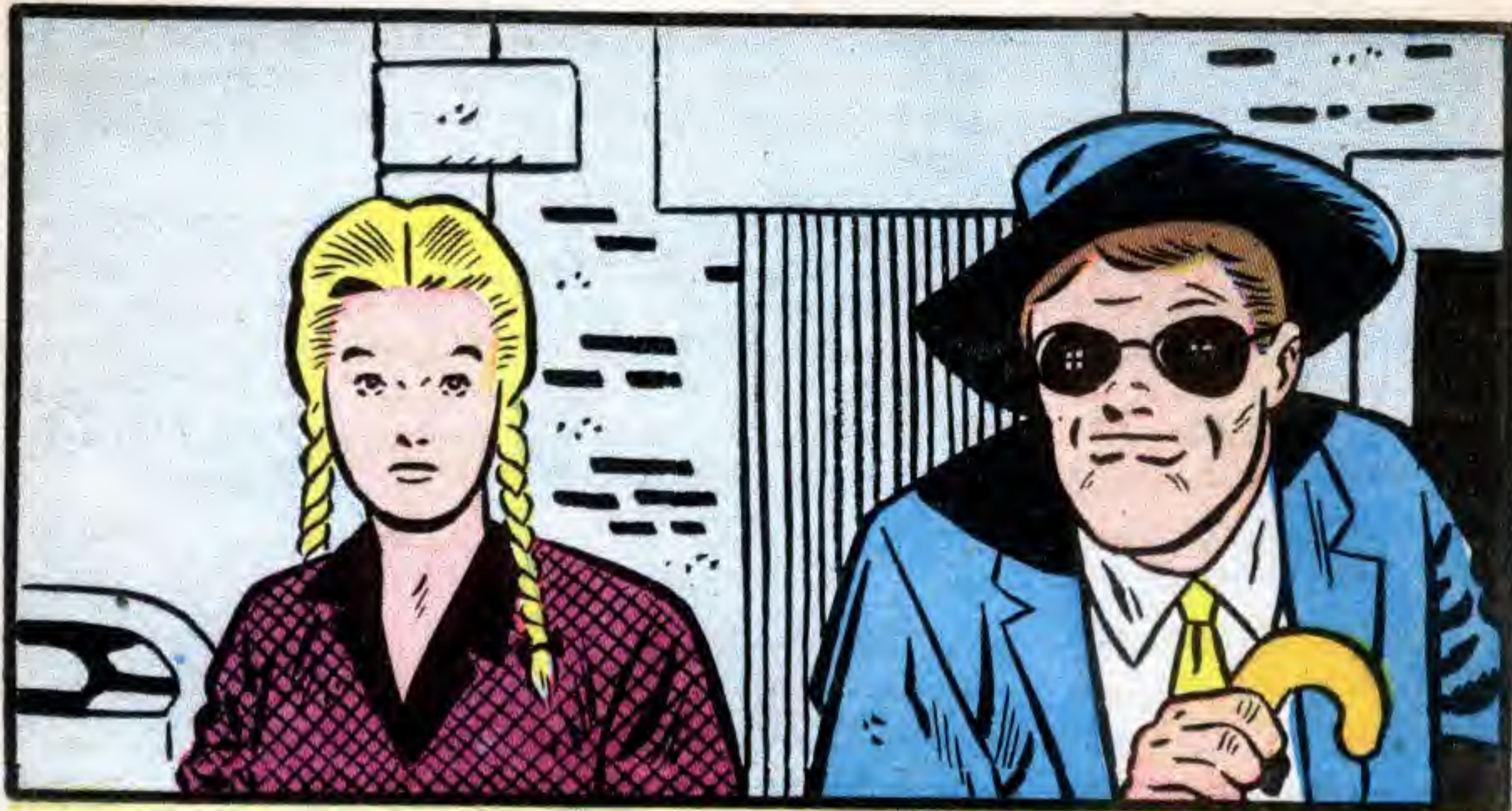
HURRAY! THE JOB IS FINISHED, WE'RE THROUGH AT LAST! NOW WE'LL LOAD THE TOYS INTO THE SLEIGH, GOOD AND FAST!





SANTA FLIES OVER HILLS AND DALES...OVER VILLAGES AND FARMS, TILL HE GETS TO YOUR HOUSE AND MINE...





THE LUCKY SILVER DOLLAR

By **SANFORD MOORE, JR.**

Not so very long ago in a small town just outside of Wisconsin, Minnesota, lived Julie Adams with her very strict Aunt Kate who was just about the meanest Aunt anyone could ever have. Julie's parents had died when she was only four and, therefore, little Julie was forced to take abode with her only other living relative, Aunt Kate.

Julie had acquired many friends since she had come to live here. They all loved her because of her warm, friendly nature and in spite of Aunt Kate's tyrannical nature, Julie had always managed to smile through it all and she still loved her Aunt and would never do anything to displease her.

One day, Aunt Kate gave Julie a dollar with which she was to go marketing and was to come straight home not stopping to play with anyone. Well, as she was leaving her home, she met Sue and Dick Preston, her neighbors, and they were going on a picnic and suggested that Julie go with them. Poor Julie knew that she dare not disobey her Aunt, so deciding she could not go, remained instead with her friends for only a short time to play. Well, as all children will do, she was playing so heartedly, she lost track of the time. She had played for at least an hour and was no way near the shopping area where she was to buy the groceries. Realizing this, she started scurrying along, taking shortcuts up side streets to make up for the time she had lost.

When she was about one block off the main shopping district, she felt inside of her pocket for the small coin purse containing the dollar for groceries which Aunt Kate had given her and discovered to her complete amazement that it was gone. What was she going to do now?

As she was trying to figure out a way to solve her problem, she noticed a blind man standing along the curb as if waiting for someone to help him across the street. Feeling very sorry for this old white haired gentleman, Julie immediately went up to

him and took his hand and helped him to the other side of the street. When they got there, the man thrust a silver dollar in the palm of Julie's hand, told her to make a wish and that she would never regret having helped him. He then started making his way slowly through the midst of people.

Julie realizing that now she did have the money for which to buy the food only wished for one thing. That the store would still be open and she could hurry and get home. However, when she arrived at the store, it was already closed and as she peered through the window, she could see the storekeeper counting the money in the cash register. And, at that very moment, her eyes still fastened on the storekeeper, there emerged from behind one of the back rooms, a stick-up man, kerchief tied around his face and with the gun pointing to the storekeeper demanding the money.

Quickly and with great speed, Julie ran to the corner whereupon she spied a policeman, told him of the incident and directed him to the scene.

Well, they arrived there just in time and the officer was able, through quick thinking and action, to break into the store, through a back door, wrestle the bandit from behind and thereby grab the gun and save the life of the storekeeper.

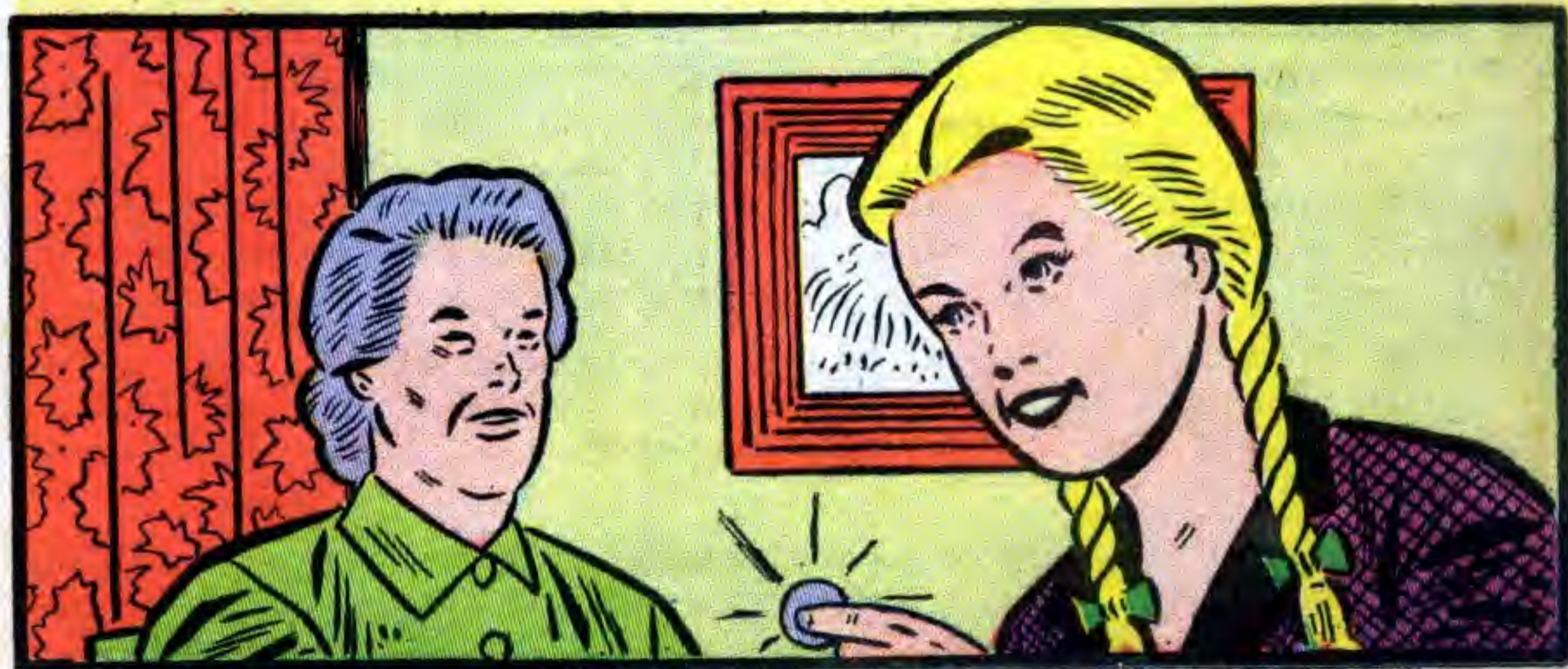
Julie was triumphantly escorted home in the policeman's car followed by another car with reporters and newspaper men because Julie was responsible for the tracking down of a bandit who had been wanted for a long, long time. For her quick thinking, she received a just reward of \$500.

Aunt Kate, learning of her brave little deed, forgot about the groceries which Julie had not brought and forgave her. Julie, because of her kind and generous nature, gave her reward money to Aunt Kate who was very poor and needed help so badly.

But, only for one thing was little Julie Adams joyful about the happenings of that day. She had helped a poor, old blind man across the street and he had given her a silver coin which she had made a wish on and her wish had come true. She knew she would keep this token of good luck forever because she felt she would never again be unhappy about anything in her life.

And, even to this day, Julie Adams and her Aunt Kate are about the happiest people living outside of the little town of Wisconsin because love and understanding is now a very important part of their lives and they both know that there is only one true way to be happy and that is to make someone else happy. Fate will take care of the rest!

THE END



CYRUS SCROUNGE HATES CHRISTMAS! NO SOONER IS THANKSGIVING OVER, AND THE TURKEY NO MORE THAN TURKEY POT PIE, AND THE BIG CRACKED PLATTER BACK ON THE TOP SHELF, THAN CYRUS SCROUNGE BEGINS TO GRUMBLE ABOUT THE APPROACHING YULETIDE. OH, BUT HE IS A CLENCH-FIST AT THE MILLSTONE, SCROUNGE! A CONSTRICTING, SPITEFUL, CONTEMPTIBLE, OLD MISER! COLD AND UNBENDING AS STEEL, HE PRIDES HIMSELF UPON BEING...

The Man Who Didn't Believe in **CHRISTMAS**





THE FOOL! CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON FIFTEEN SHILLINGS A WEEK! BUT WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT THE LIKES OF HIM, WHEN MY MERCHANT SHIP COMES INTO PORT SOON, LOADED WITH RICH CARGO!

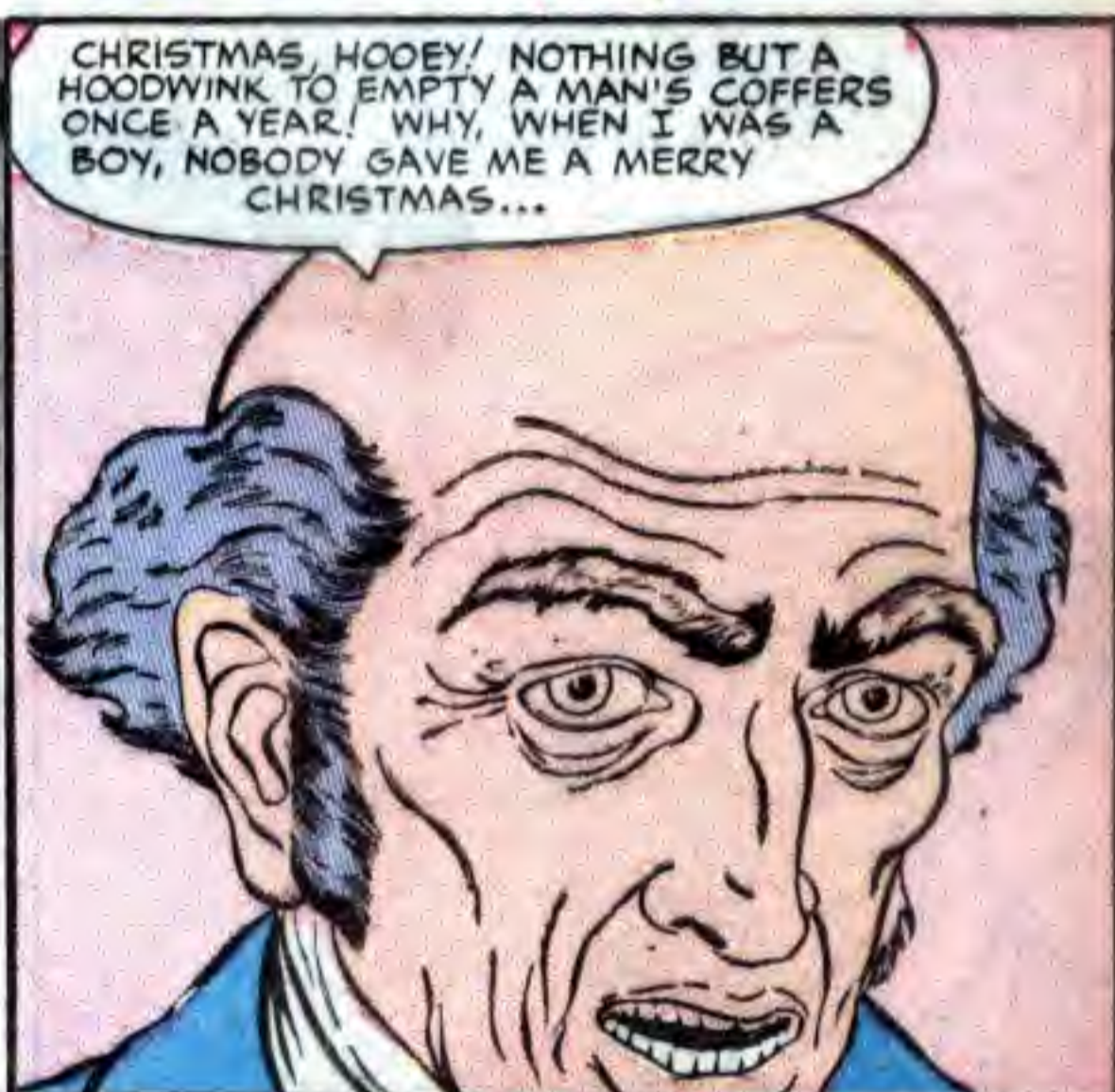


JUST THEN, TWO PLEASANT GENTLEMEN ENTER THE OFFICE...
MR. SCROUNGE, I PRESUME, IN THIS JOYOUS SEASON, WE OF THE CHURCH GROUP VISIT THE LOCAL MERCHANTS LIKE YOURSELF TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE POOR AND SICK! HOW MUCH SHALL I PUT YOU DOWN FOR?

NOTHING! NOT A SHILLING!



I DON'T CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE LOAFERS MERRY! I PAY TAXES TO SUPPORT THE POORHOUSES... LET THOSE THAT ARE HARD UP GO THERE! GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN!



CHRISTMAS, HOOEY! NOTHING BUT A HOODWINK TO EMPTY A MAN'S COFFERS ONCE A YEAR! WHY, WHEN I WAS A BOY, NOBODY GAVE ME A MERRY CHRISTMAS...



... "I REMEMBER HOW I USED TO STAND OUTSIDE WINDOWS, A RAGGED TYKE, GAZING LONGINGLY AT OTHER PEOPLE'S GOOD FORTUNE! LITTLE DID THEY CARE ABOUT ME..."



JUST THEN, SCROUNGE'S REVERIE IS RUDELY SHATTERED...

MR. SCROUNGE! MR. SCROUNGE! YOUR SHIP IS LOST AT SEA!



I'M RUINED...WIPE OUT! OH WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO TRUST THAT NINCOMPPOOP OF A SEA CAPTAIN WITH MY PRECIOUS CARGO SHIP! YOU'RE FIRED, OF COURSE! I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY YOU THE DAYS WAGES, LET ALONE KEEP YOU ON THE JOB!

I'D BE GLAD TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR YOU WITHOUT WAGES UNTIL YOU CAN PAY ME, MR. SCROUNGE...



...MEANWHILE, BEING THAT YOU'RE PENNILESS, YOU'RE MOST WELCOME TO COME AND SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH MY FAMILY! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE STUFFED GOOSE AND PLUM...

WHY SHOULD YOU DO THIS FOR ME... YOU, WHO ARE EVEN POORER THAN I AM?



IF ONE CAN'T OPEN THEIR HEART AND BE KIND, FORGIVING, AND CHARITABLE ON CHRISTMAS, WHAT HOPE IS THERE FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND?

SCROUNGE LEAVES THE OFFICE AFTER ACCEPTING CRINGLE'S INVITATION, AND IS AMAZED TO FIND THE NEWS OF HIS ILL FORTUNE SPREAD ALL OVER TOWN...



SORRY TO HEAR 'BOUT YOUR BAD LUCK, MR. SCROUNGE! TRY TO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, ANYHOW!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSIN... OH, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, TOO!

HE IS FLABBERGASTED AT THE AMOUNT OF CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS HE RECEIVES FROM THE WELL-MEANING TOWNSPEOPLE...



MY WIFE AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OUR CHRISTMAS WITH YOU!

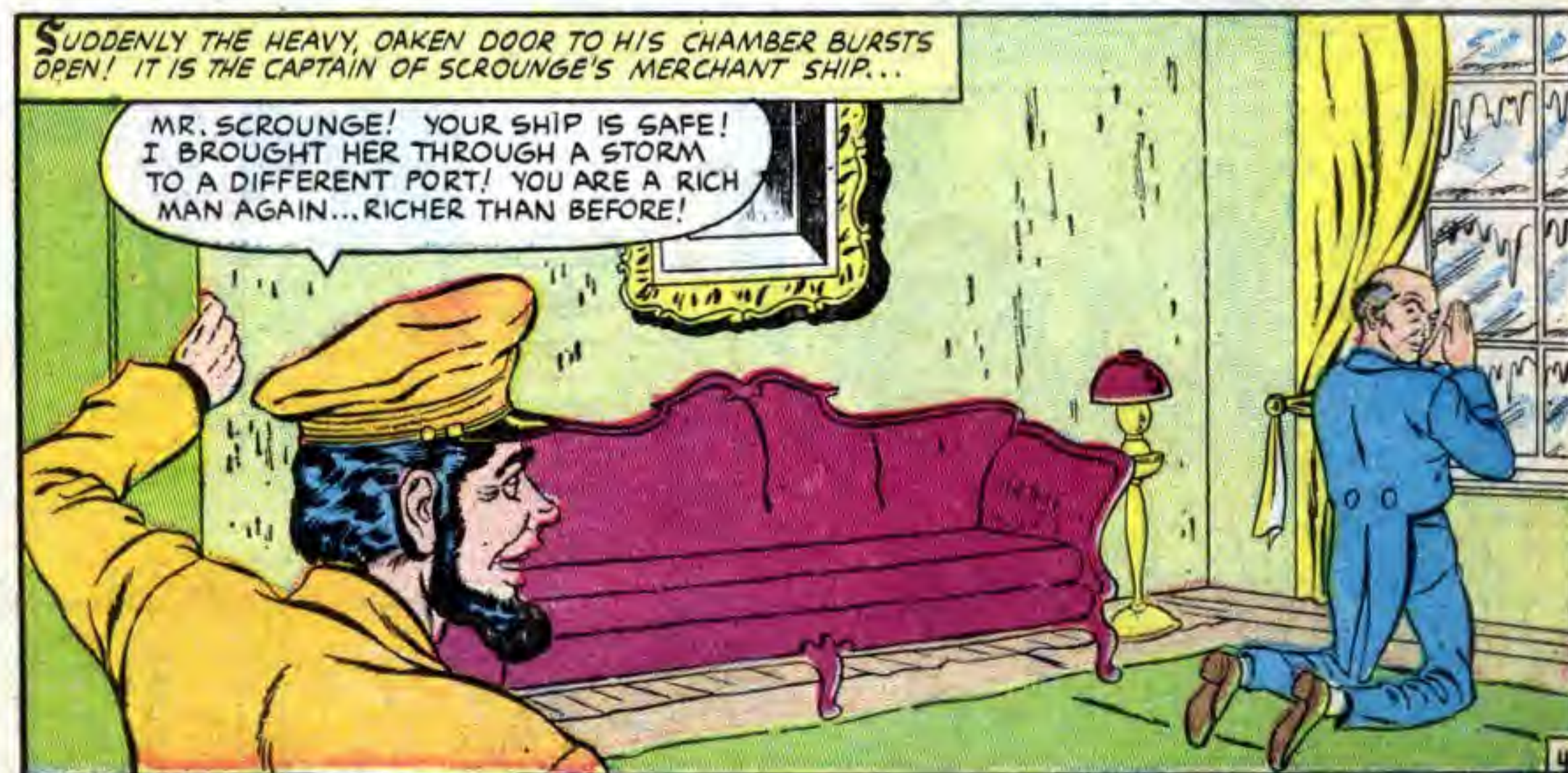
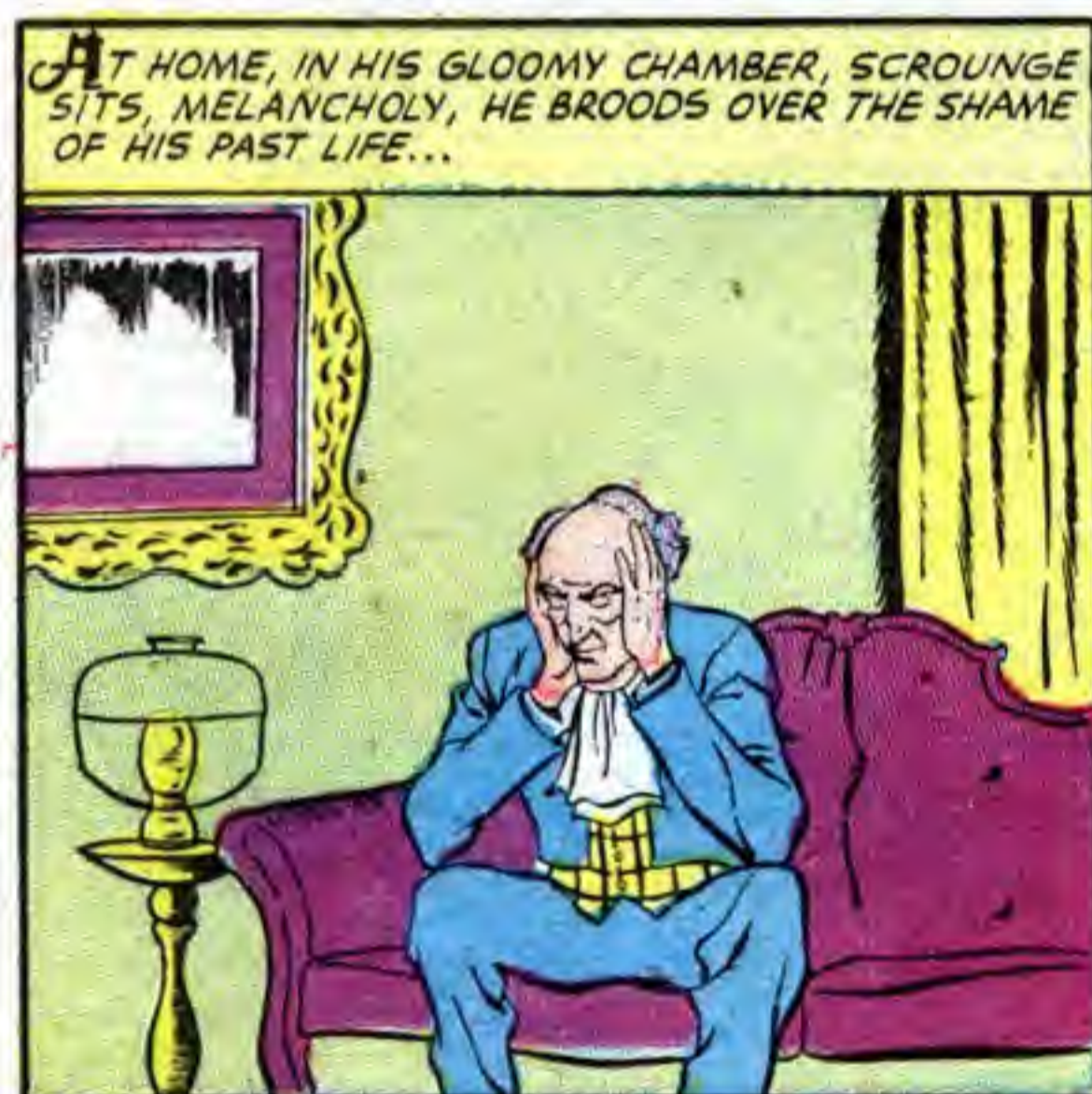
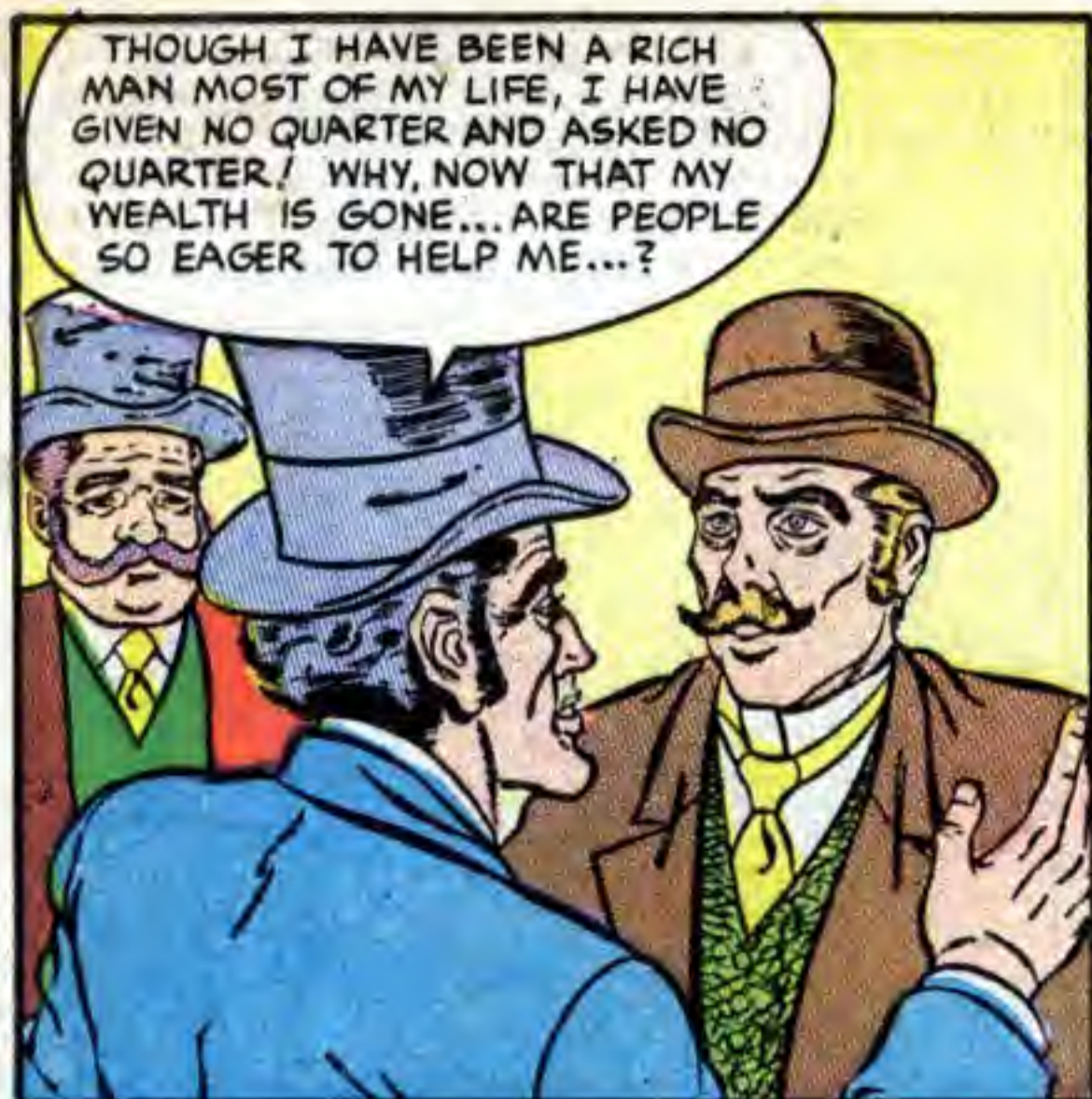
THAT IS MOST KIND OF YOU, SIR! I THANK YOU AND YOUR WIFE, BUT I ALREADY HAVE AN INVITATION!

THE SAME MEN HE THREW OUT OF HIS OFFICE EARLIER IN THE DAY, APPROACH SCROUNGE AND OFFER THEIR HELP...



DON'T HESITATE TO CALL UPON US, IF EVER YOU SHOULD NEED AID!

...AND I TURNED YOU DOWN, TODAY WHEN YOU CAME ASKING FUNDS FOR THE POOR!



SCROUNGE FINDS HIMSELF LAUGHING AND CRYING IN THE SAME BREATH...

YOU'VE MADE ME HAPPY AS A SCHOOLBOY! I HAVE ALL THE TIME BEFORE ME TO MAKE AMENDS IN! PLEASE, MY FINE FELLOW...MENTION THIS TO NO ONE!

AYE... SIR!



BUYING OUT ALL THE TOY STORES IN TOWN IS NOT AN EASY TASK, WHEN YOUR HANDS SHAKE VERY MUCH; AND BUYING TOYS REQUIRES ATTENTION...

HAVE THE REST OF THE TOYS DELIVERED TO THIS ADDRESS AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

BLESS YOU, SIR... FOR YOUR GOODNESS!



BUYING FOOD ALSO REQUIRES ATTENTION...

...THE BIGGEST TURKEY YOU HAVE, AND SEND IT TO TOM CRINGLE'S HOUSE! HE MUST NOT KNOW WHO SENT IT!

NOW, THE CRINGLES CAN HAVE A CHRISTMAS DINNER! THEY'VE GIVEN THEIR GOOSE AND TRIMMINGS TO A STARVING FAMILY!



NEXT, SCROUNGE GOES TO SEE THE GENTLEMAN WHO HAD BEGGED FUNDS FOR THE POOR...

ALLOW ME TO BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR! AND WILL YOU HAVE THE GOODNESS TO ACCEPT THIS FOOD FOR YOUR POOR?

MY DEAR MR. SCROUNGE...YOU LEAVE ME BREATHLESS WITH YOUR GENEROSITY!



SCROUNGE WALKED ALONG THE STREETS, WATCHING THE PEOPLE RUSHING ABOUT, AND PLAYING WITH CHILDREN, AND GIVING OUT GIFTS, AND CALLING "MERRY CHRISTMAS!" TO ALL THE JOLLY, BUSY, CHRISTMAS-SHOPPING TOWN...

MY, MY! WHAT A KIND MAN! AND HE'S HAVING SUCH FUN!



ON CHRISTMAS DAY, HE ATTENDS THE CRINGLE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER! THE TABLE IS BARREN, BUT APPETITES ARE HEARTY...



THE CHILDREN HAVE NO TOYS, BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE LIGHT AND THEIR LAUGHTER IS MERRY...



BUT NOW A KNOCKING AT THE DOOR IS HEARD, AND SUCH A RUSH OF TRADESPEOPLE ENTER, LADEN WITH FOOD AND TOYS AND PRESENTS...

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO THE CRINGLES!



THEN IN THE MIDST OF THE SHOUTING AND THE CHARGE MADE ON THE DEFENSELESS TRADESPEOPLE FOR FOOD AND GIFTS, SCROUNGE TELLS TOM CRINGLE THERE'S A BIG RAISE IN PAY FOR HIM...

...SO MY SHIP IS SAFE... AND I'LL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND THE OTHER WONDERFUL PEOPLE FOR OFFERING HELP TO A FORMER OLD MISER!

I ALWAYS KNEW, DEEP DOWN INSIDE THERE WAS GOOD IN YOU, MR. SCROUNGE!



I HOPE ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS' IN THE YEARS TO COME WILL BE FULL OF FUN AND JOY!

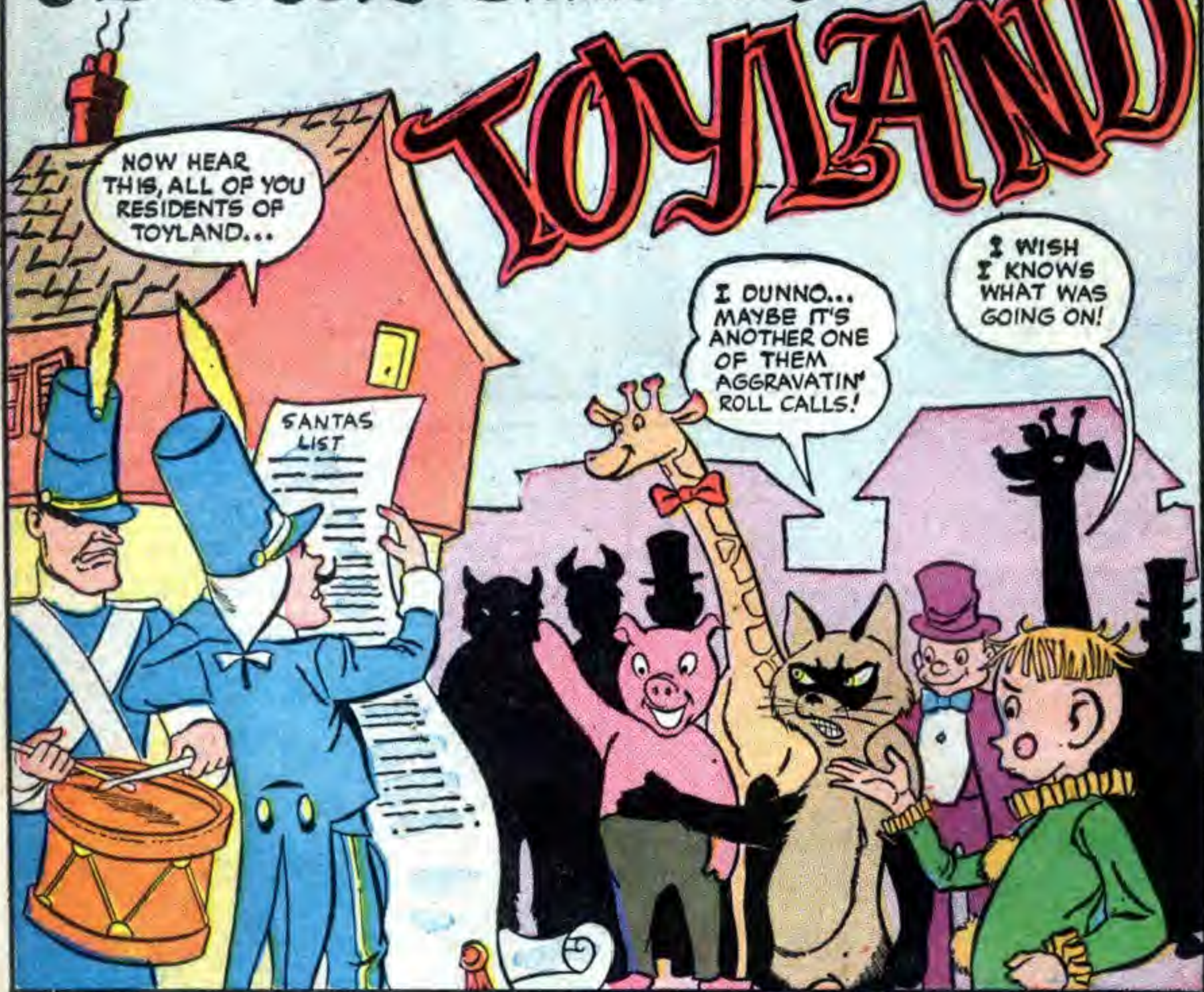
THINKING OF OTHER PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS BRING FUN AND JOY...

...FOR REMEMBER, IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE!



OH, ME... OH, MY! EVERYTHING IS GOING WRONG IN TOYLAND! THE HEAD TOYMAN GETS UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED, THE HEAD DOLLMAN DOESN'T EAT HIS BREAKFAST, AND ALL BECAUSE OF A RAMBUNCTIOUS, SIAMESE PUSSY CAT WHO STARTS...

A Rebellion in TOYLAND



THE FOLLOWING NAMES OF TOYS MUST BE READY TONIGHT TO ACCOMPANY SANTA CLAUS TO THE HOMES OF REAL CHILDREN! TOMMY TURTLE...? TAWNY, THE SIAMESE CAT...?

TAWNY, CORNGRATULATIONS! I DIDN'T GET TO GO THIS TIME, BUT YOU DID!

CORNGRATULATIONS, PHOOEY! I WASN'T PLANNIN' ON DIS-EMBARCKING!

IN OTHER WORDS...I'M NOT GOING! CHRISTMAS, BAH, HUMBUG!





MEANWHILE, TAWNY IS GETTING MADDER AND MADDER...

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND! I'M NOT GOING...NO SELF-RESPECTIN' CAT WANTS TO END UP IN A CHRISTMAS STOCKIN'! I'LL DEFY THE KING AND GET OUT OF TOYLAND ON MY OWN!



AS A CITIZEN OF TOYLAND, I COMMANDS YOU TO STOP TALKIN' TRAITOROUS TALK!

UH-UH, IT'S SKIPPY!



HERE'S A PLAN I COOKED UP... WE RAID THE QUARTER-MASTER DEPOT AND ARM OURSELVES, THEN HIJACK THE TOYLAND TRAIN...

THE PLOT GITS MORE COMPLICATED!

COUNT US IN!



IT'S TREASON AND SANTA WOULDN'T APPROVE...

PHOO ON SANTA...I HAVE MIGHT AND MAIN!



I'M GOING TO REPORT- WHOOPS!

SEIZE HIM!



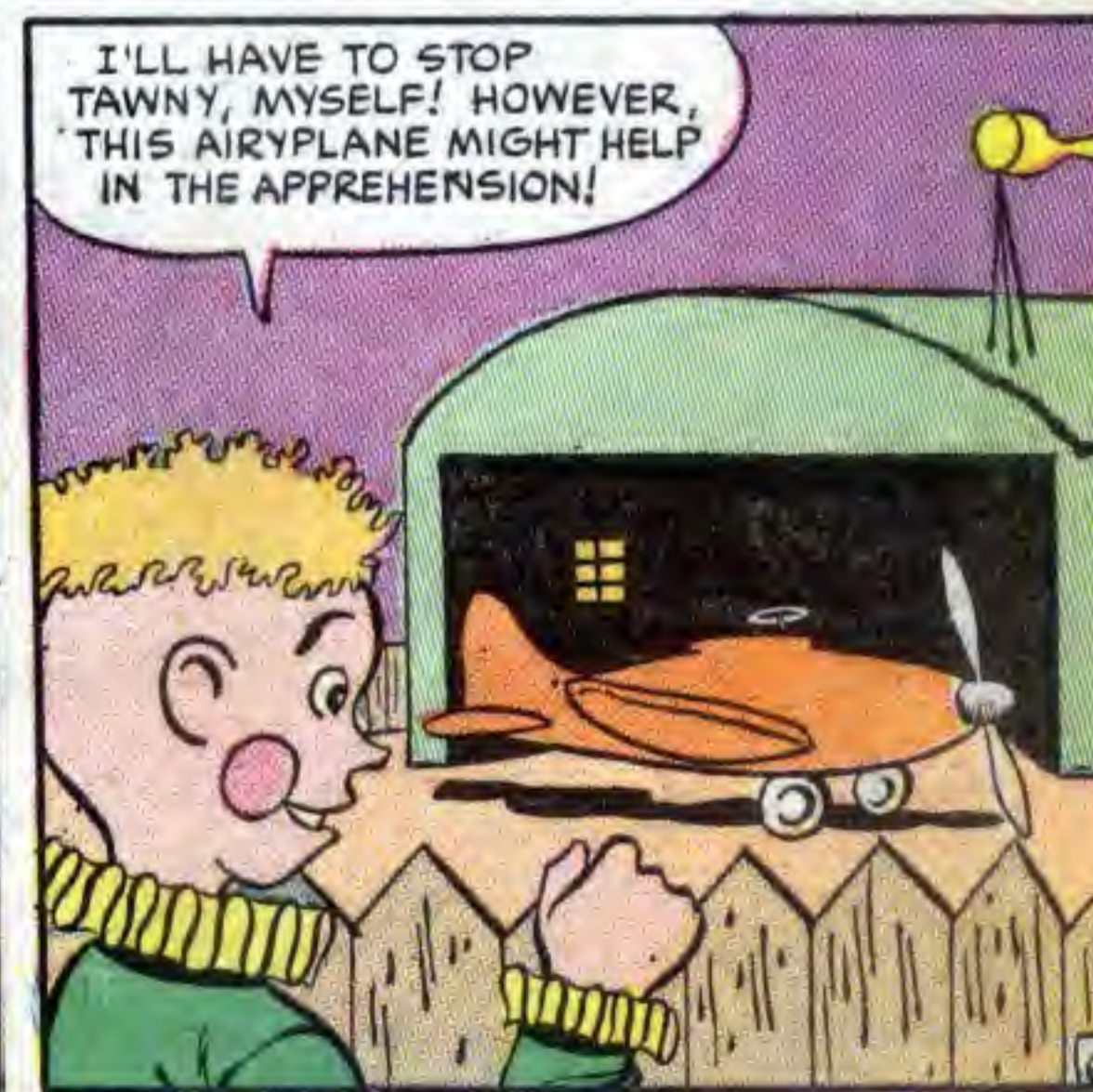
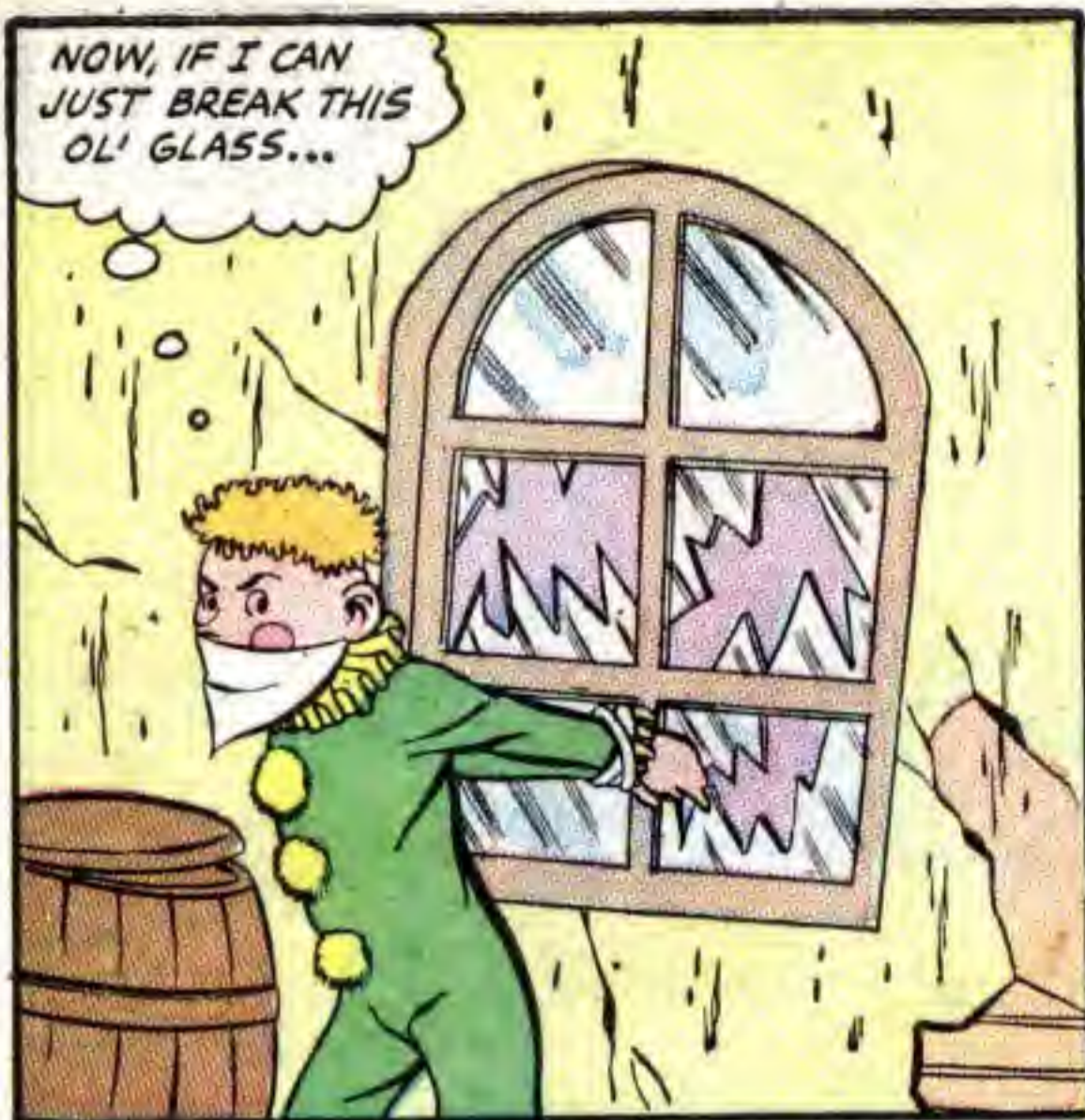
HALP!

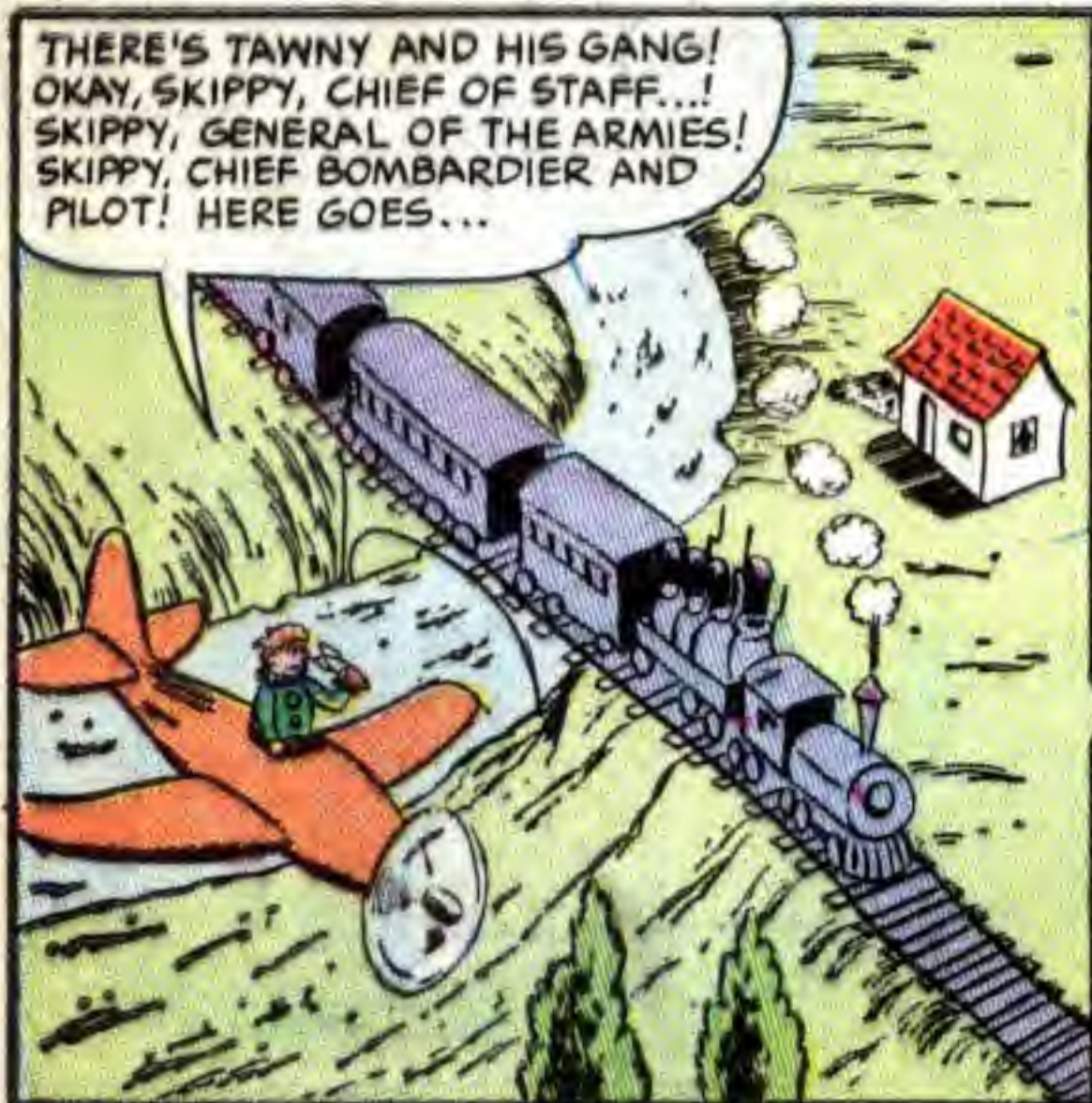
GOTCHA!











The Troubadour

I WILL NOW TELL YOU THE TALE OF A TROUBADOUR NAMED LAURENCE, WHO LIVED MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO. LAURENCE SINGS SUCH BEAUTIFUL BALLADS AND PLAYS SO WELL ON HIS LUTE THAT HIS FAME IS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE LAND!



THE COURIER TELLS LAURENCE THAT THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAS LEARNED OF HIM THROUGH HIS WIFE AND OFFICERS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS...

...AND HIS SINGING WAS LIKE THAT OF A NIGHTINGALE...

...SO I HEAR, AND THAT HIS PLAYING IS LIKE A CHOIR OF ANGELS!



I MUST SEE THIS TROUBADOUR LAURENCE, FOR MYSELF IF HE IS EVERYTHING THEY SAY HE IS!

I WILL RIDE TO FETCH HIM FOR YOU, MY LORD!



...AND HERE IS HIS MESSAGE TO YOU. "I SHALL NOT REST, NOR SLEEP, OR PARTAKE OF FOOD TILL I CAN SEE YOU AND HEAR YOU PERFORM!"

TELL THE LORD, I WILL BE HONORED TO COME!



LAURENCE TELLS HIS MOTHER OF THE MESSAGE...

I MUST GO, FOR IT WOULD BE SHEER DISRESPECT TO DISAPPOINT THE LORD CHANCELLOR!



BUT HOW CAN YOU TAKE LEAVE OF YOUR FAMILY TWO DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

PLEASE DO NOT GO, BROTHER, FOR WE'LL MISS YOU SURELY AT CHRISTMAS TIME!

I PROMISE YOU BOTH... THAT AS SURE AS MISTLETOE IS GREEN AND SNOW IS WHITE... I SHALL RETURN ON CHRISTMAS DAY TO SING THE CAROLS AND EAT THE CHRISTMAS DINNER AT MY OWN HEARTH!



AND SO THE TROUBADOUR AND HIS ESCORT
RIDE ON! ALL THE NIGHT THEY MOVE
THROUGH GREAT FORESTS OF OAK, PASS-
ING BROAD HEATHS GLOWING SILVERY
UNDER THE MOON, AND FINALLY REACH
THEIR DESTINATION...



AT THE MANOR, LAURENCE IS WELCOMED
WITH JUBILATION. NO VISITING ROYALTY
IS EVER TREATED BETTER...



HE DINES ON PLATTER OF SILVER AND REPOSES ON
SILKEN COUCHES. NO MATTER WHAT HE IS DOING,
HIS FOREMOST THOUGHTS ARE OF HIS MOTHER AND
LITTLE SISTER AND THE VOW HE MADE TO THEM...

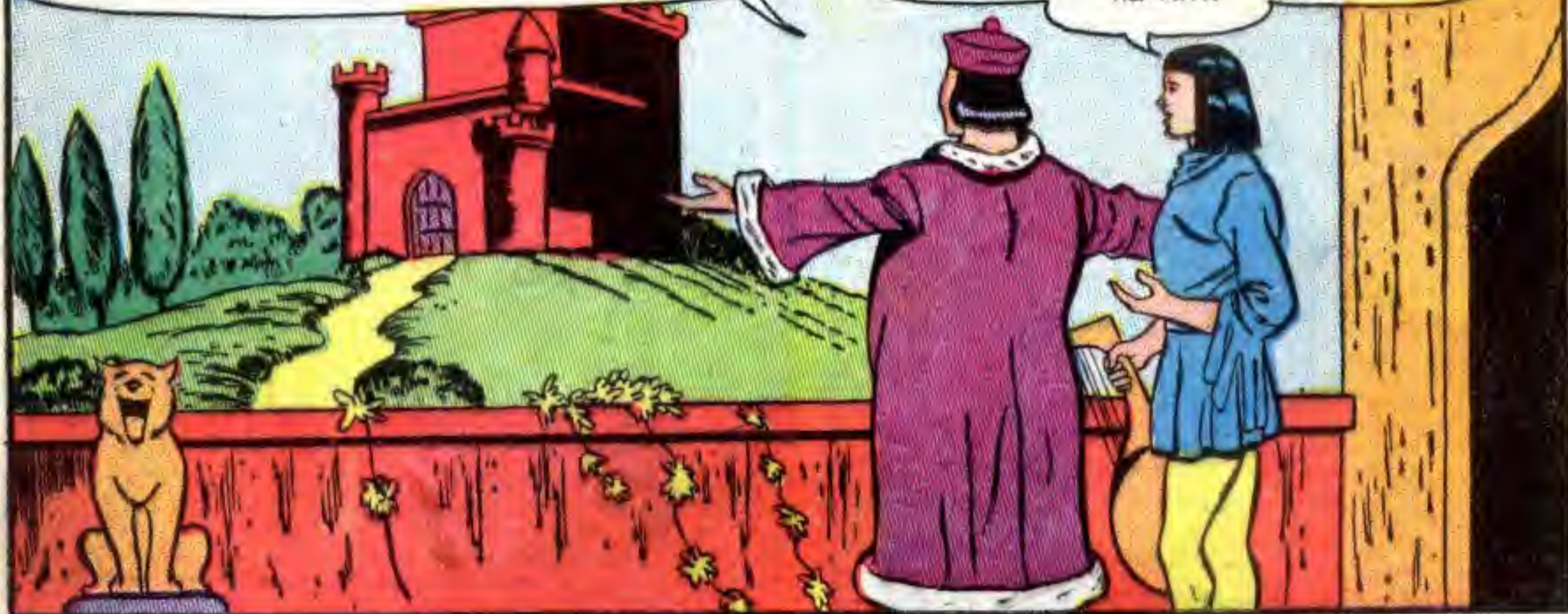


ON THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, LAURENCE
BIDS THE LORD CHANCELLOR GOODBYE...



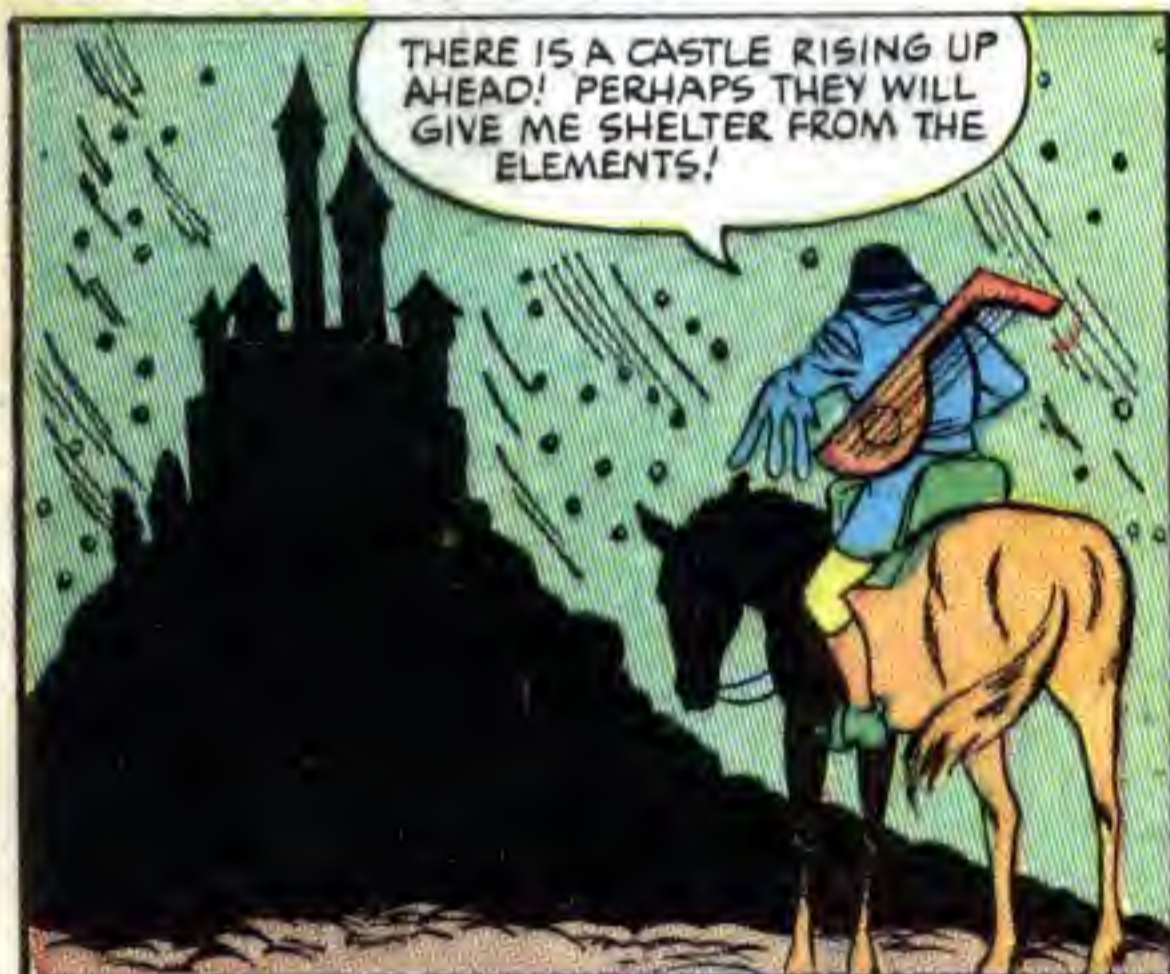
IF YOU STAY TO SING AND PLAY FOR ME ON CHRISTMAS DAY, I WILL GIVE YOU FINE HOUSES, BOTH IN TOWN AND COUNTRY, A DEAL OF SILVER AND GOLD PLATE, AND COACHES GILDED ALL OVER IN SILVER!

I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR OFFER, FOR I MADE A VOW TO MY MOTHER, AND SISTER TO RETURN HOME ON CHRISTMAS DAY TO SING CAROLS AND EAT THE CHRISTMAS DINNER BEFORE MY OWN HEARTH!



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, LAURENCE DONNS HIS CLOAK, HANGS HIS LUTE UPON HIS BACK AND SETS OUT FROM THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S MANOR. HE DOESN'T RIDE FAR, WHEN SNOW STARTS FLUTTERING DOWN.

THE CASTLE BELONGS TO A RICH DUKE AND HOW GLAD HE IS TO GIVE SHELTER AND FOOD TO THE FAMED TROUBADOUR. IN PAYMENT, LAURENCE SINGS AND PLAYS HIS MOST BEAUTIFUL SONGS...



THERE IS A CASTLE RISING UP AHEAD! PERHAPS THEY WILL GIVE ME SHELTER FROM THE ELEMENTS!



CHRISTMAS DAY IS ALMOST HERE. DO YE FEEL THE CHRISTMAS GHEER...

GLORIOUS! GLORIOUS! IT SOUNDS LIKE THE TINKLING OF GLASS BELLS!

AND WHEN LAURENCE GOES TO BID THE DUKE FAREWELL...

I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW!

IF YOU STAY I WILL GIVE YOU THESE GEMS AND A GREAT STONE CASTLE WITH MARBLE HALLS AND CRYSTAL FURNITURE AND GOLD TAPESTRY!



ONCE AGAIN, THE TROUBADOUR REJECTS AN OFFER OF WEALTH, TO CONTINUE HIS JOURNEY HOMeward. BUT IT'S A DARK NIGHT AND THE WIND BLOWS SO HARD, THAT LAURENCE AGAIN SEEKS SHELTER...

I HAVE NEVER BEEN OUT IN SUCH WEATHER! I WILL STOP AT THAT PALACE!



THIS TIME, IT'S THE PALACE OF A GREAT KING! IN LAURENCE'S HONOR, THREE OXEN ARE ROASTED, AND STUFFED WITH DUCKS! THE FOUNTAINS RUN WITH WINE AND THE KING, QUEEN AND COURT PRAISE THE TROUBADOUR'S PLAYING...



AN EVEN GREATER HONOR IS BESTOWED UPON LAURENCE WHEN HE IS KNIGHTED...



WHEN LAURENCE TELLS THE KING HE MUST LEAVE...



LAURENCE TRUDGES ONWARD, AND THE STORM CONTINUES! BUT SUDDENLY THE WIND STOPS HOWLING AND THE HAIL STOPS FALLING. THE DARKNESS TURNS TO CLEAREST LIGHT AND THE TROUBADOUR SEES THE OPEN DOORWAY OF HIS HOME...



THIS MOTHER AND LITTLE SISTER WELCOME HIM HOME WITH GREAT JOY. AND ON CHRISTMAS DAY, LAURENCE IS HAPPIER THAN ANY LORD MAYOR, DUKE, OR KING AS HE SITS BY HIS HEARTH AND SINGS...



Decorate The Christmas Tree For **SANTA!**

A Christmas Game



SANTA CLAUS DIDN'T QUITE FINISH DECORATING THIS CHRISTMAS TREE, BECAUSE HE HAS AN EXTRA HEAVY LIST OF BOYS AND GIRLS TO VISIT THIS YEAR. BUT WHO EVER HEARD OF AN UNFINISHED CHRISTMAS TREE? SO HELP SANTA BY PUTTING THE GIFTS AND TRIMMINGS IN THEIR CORRECT PLACES. DO THIS BY CUTTING OUT THE TOYS AND PASTING THEM IN THEIR PROPER OUTLINES. MAKE CERTAIN TO PLACE EVERYTHING JUST WHERE SANTA PLANNED TO HAVE THEM.





ADUS. IN Womogelano #5

L.G.

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